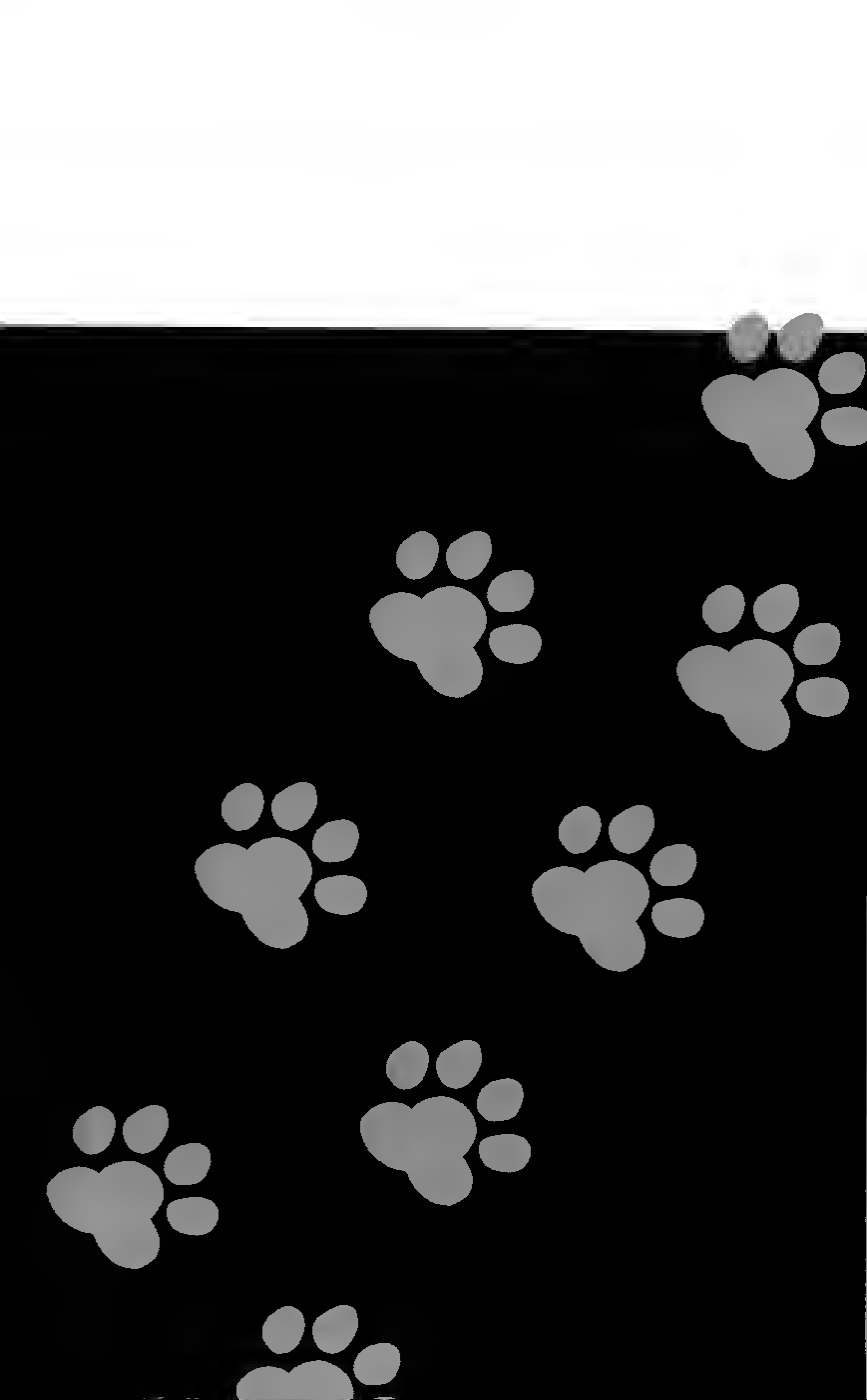
What's Michael?

by **Makoto Kobayashi**

Fat Cat in the City



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Fat Cat in the City

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Dark Horse Comics inc.

publisher
Mike Richardson

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Tim Ervin-Gore and Mike Hansen

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Toren Smith for Studio Proteus

collection editor
Chris Warner

designer and art director
Mark Cox

English language version produced by
Studio Proteus and
Dark Horse Comics, Inc

What's Michael? Vol. VII: Fat Cat in the City

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This volume collects What's Michael? *stories from issues sixteen through twenty-three of the Dark Horse comic-book series* Super Manga Blast!

The artwork of this volume has been produced as a mirror image of the original Japanese edition to conform to English-language standards.

Published by
Dark Horse Comics Inc
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie OR 97222

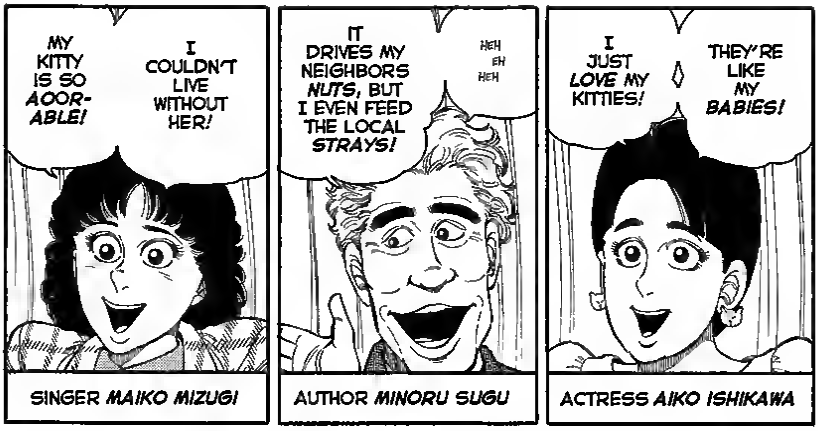
www.darkhorse.com

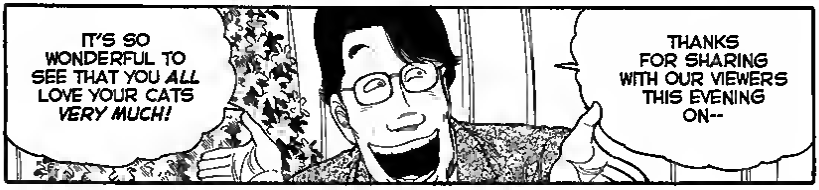
To find a comics shop in your area call the Comic Shop Locator Service toll-free at 1-888-266-4226

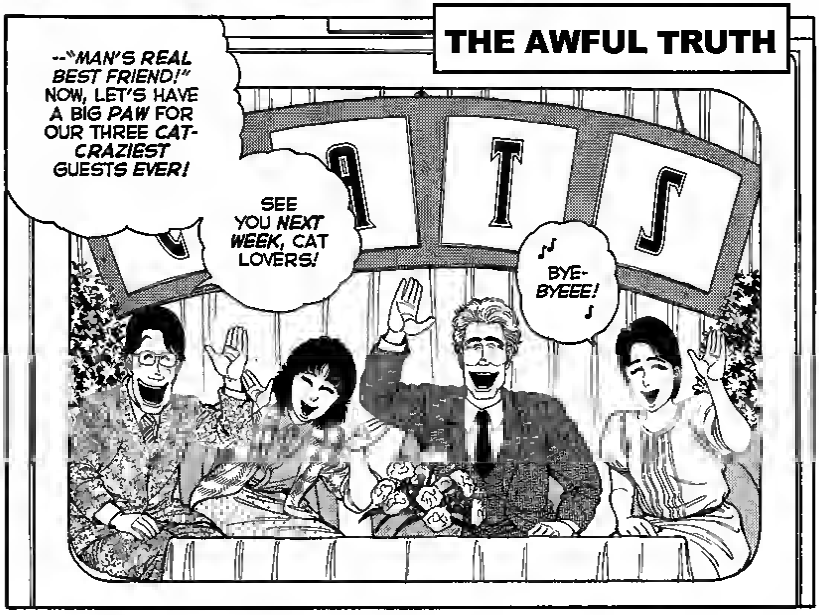
First edition February 2003
ISBN 1-56971-914 4

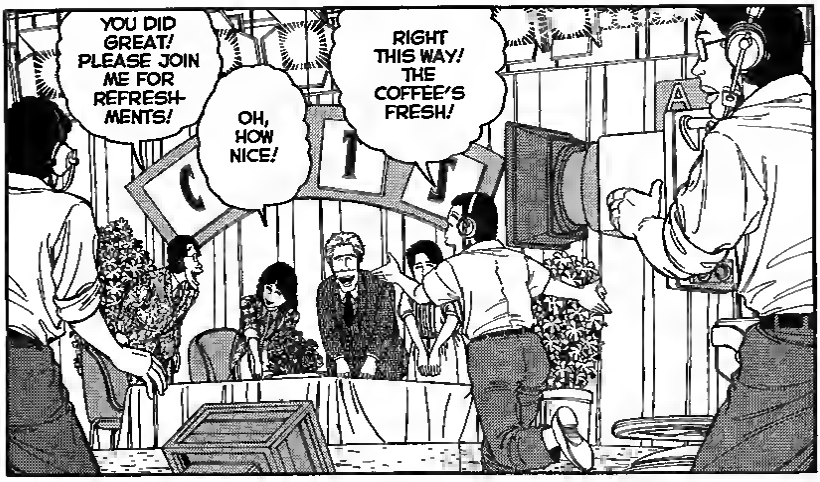
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in Canada

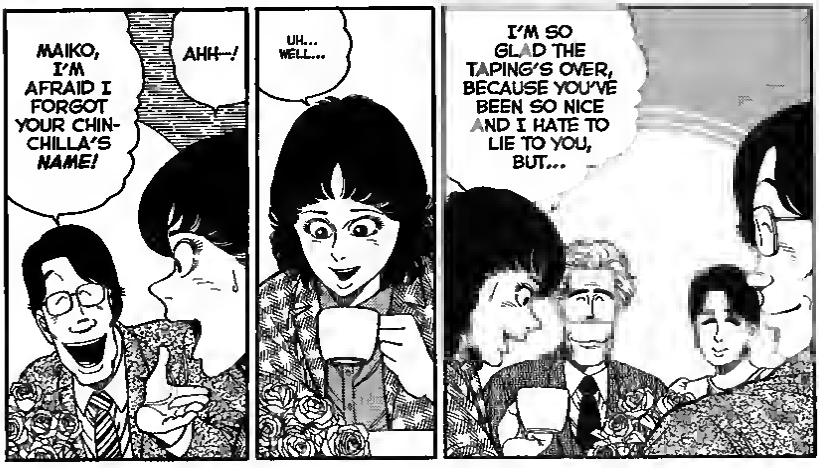

MY KITTY IS SO *ADOR-ABLE!*
I COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT HER!
SINGER *MAIKO MIZUGI*
IT DRIVES MY NEIGHBORS *NUTS*, BUT I EVEN FEED THE LOCAL *STRAYS!*
HEH EH HEH
AUTHOR *MINORU SUGU*
I JUST *LOVE* MY KITTIES!
THEY'RE LIKE MY *BABIES!*
ACTRESS *AIKO ISHIKAWA*


IT'S SO WONDERFUL TO SEE THAT YOU *ALL* LOVE YOUR CATS *VERY MUCH!*
THANKS FOR SHARING WITH OUR VIEWERS THIS EVENING ON--


THE AWFUL TRUTH
--"*MAN'S REAL BEST FRIEND!*" NOW, LET'S HAVE A BIG *PAW* FOR OUR THREE *CAT-CRAZIEST* GUESTS *EVER!*
SEE YOU *NEXT WEEK*, CAT LOVERS!
♪ BYE-*BYEEE!* ♪


YOU DID GREAT! PLEASE JOIN ME FOR REFRESH-MENTS!
OH, HOW NICE!
RIGHT THIS WAY! THE COFFEE'S FRESH!

YOU ALL WERE SO WONDERFUL! I THINK IT WAS OUR *BEST* SHOOT EVER!
THE WAY YOU FEEL ABOUT YOUR CATS *REALLY* CAME THROUGH! OUR VIEWERS WILL *LOVE* IT!
THAT'S GREAT!
HEH EH HEH

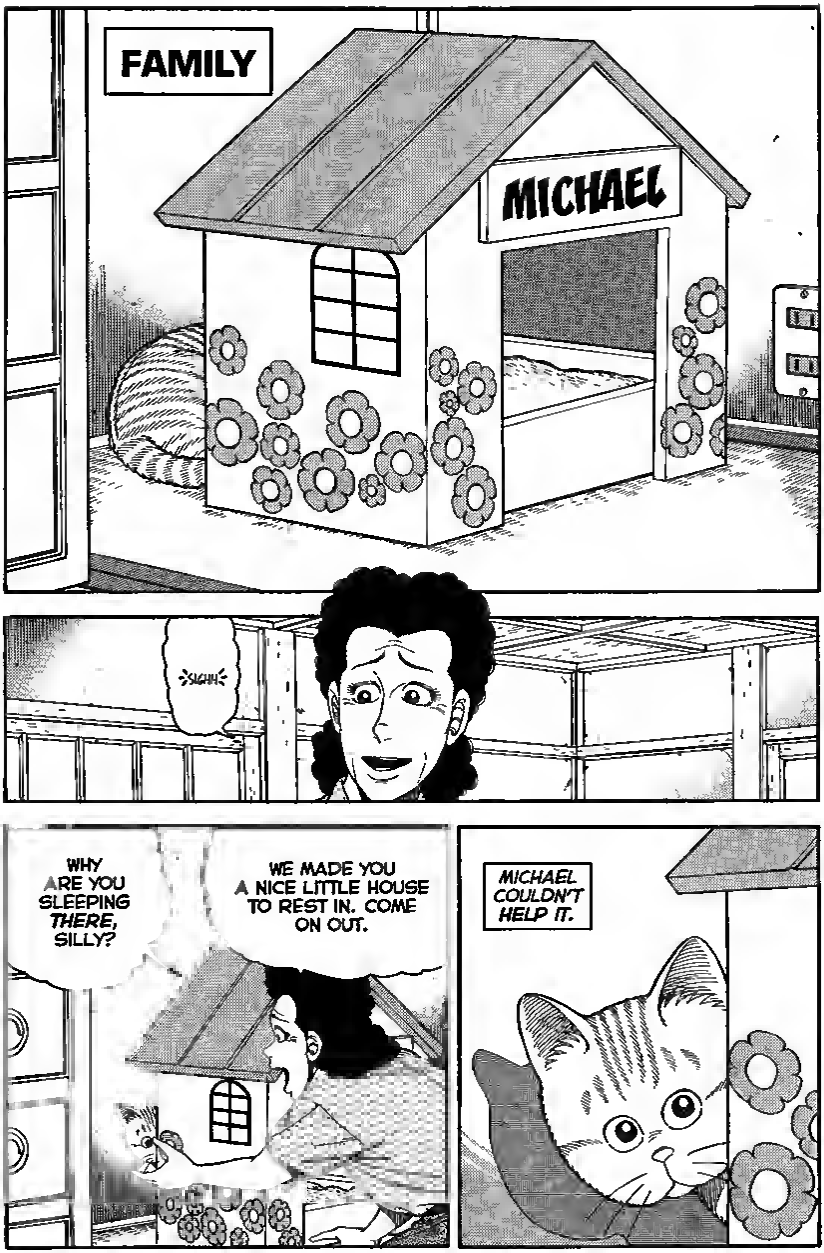

MAIKO, I'M AFRAID I FORGOT YOUR CHIN-CHILLA'S *NAME!*
AHH--!
UH... WELL...
I'M SO GLAD THE TAPING'S OVER, BECAUSE YOU'VE BEEN SO NICE AND I HATE TO LIE TO YOU, BUT...

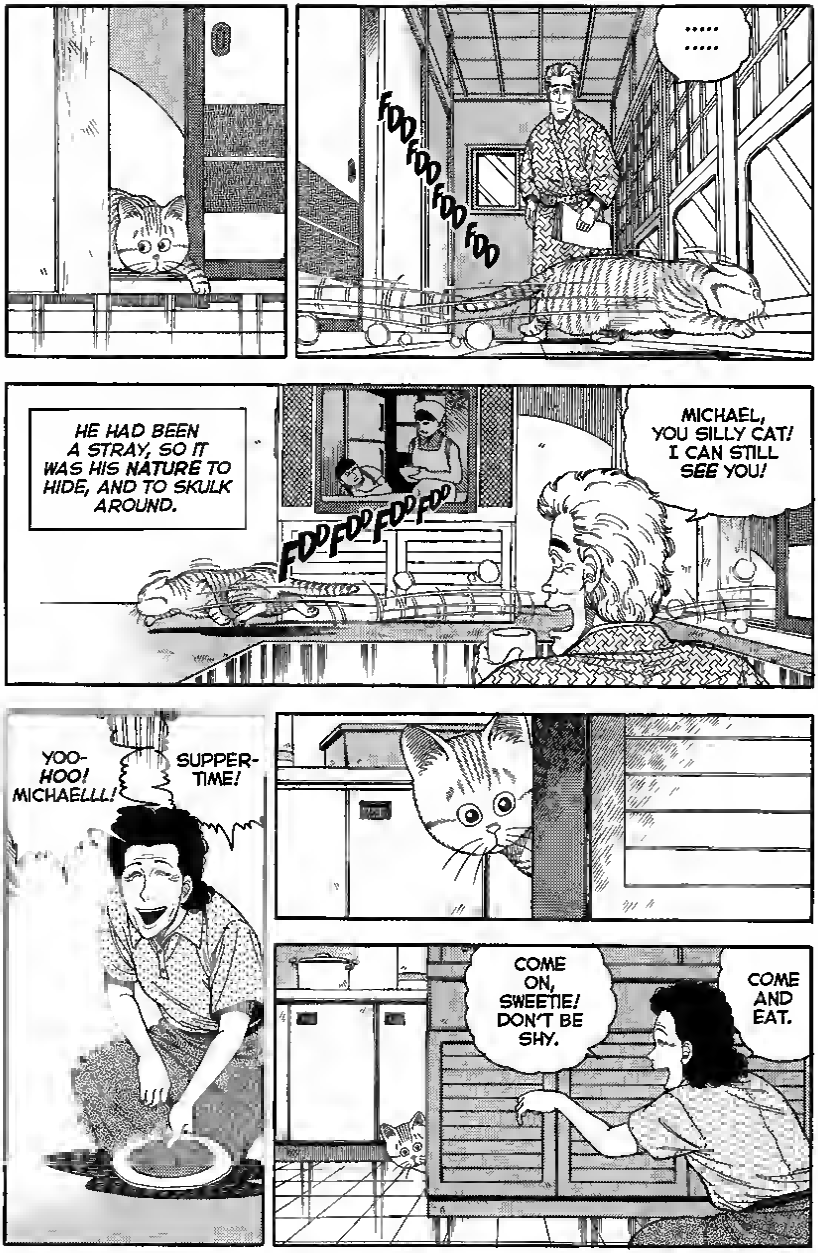
I... I DON'T OWN A CAT.
B-BUT, MAIKO! THERE WAS A PICTURE OF YOU HUGGING YOUR CHINCHILLA IN PEOPLE!
"She's my love muffin!"
I...I BORROWED HER FROM A FRIEND!
WAS EVERYTHING YOU SAID ON THE SHOW A LIE?!
I'M SORRY! I LIKE CATS, I REALLY DO!!
JUST NOT OWNING THEM!
DON'T CRY, MAIKO. AT LEAST YOU'VE NEVER, SAY...
...ABANDONED A CAT!
LIKE I DID! AND SHE WAS PREGNANT, TOO.
HEH EH HEH

MR. SUGU, NOOOO! THAT CAN'T BE TRUE! YOU WROTE LITTLE LIONS IN THE HOUSE ALL ABOUT YOUR CATS! IT WAS A BEST-SELLER!
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I...I WAS SO DAMN POOR BACK THEN!
THE LANDLORD TOLD ME TO GET RID OF HER OR GET EVICTED!!
SO I PUT MY DARLING HANAKO IN A CARDBOARD BOX, AND LEFT HER IN A PARK THIRTY MILES AWAY...
IN MY HEART, I'VE BEGGED HANAKO FOR FORGIVENESS A MILLION TIMES...BUT THE MEMORY OF HER SAD, LONELY EYES TORTURES ME STILL!
HANAKO, FORGIVE MEEE!
WAHH! AHH! WAHH!
MR. SUGU, I'D WANT TO DIE IF I DID THAT!
HOW COULD YOU BEAR THE GUILT?
WELL...
A MONTH LATER...

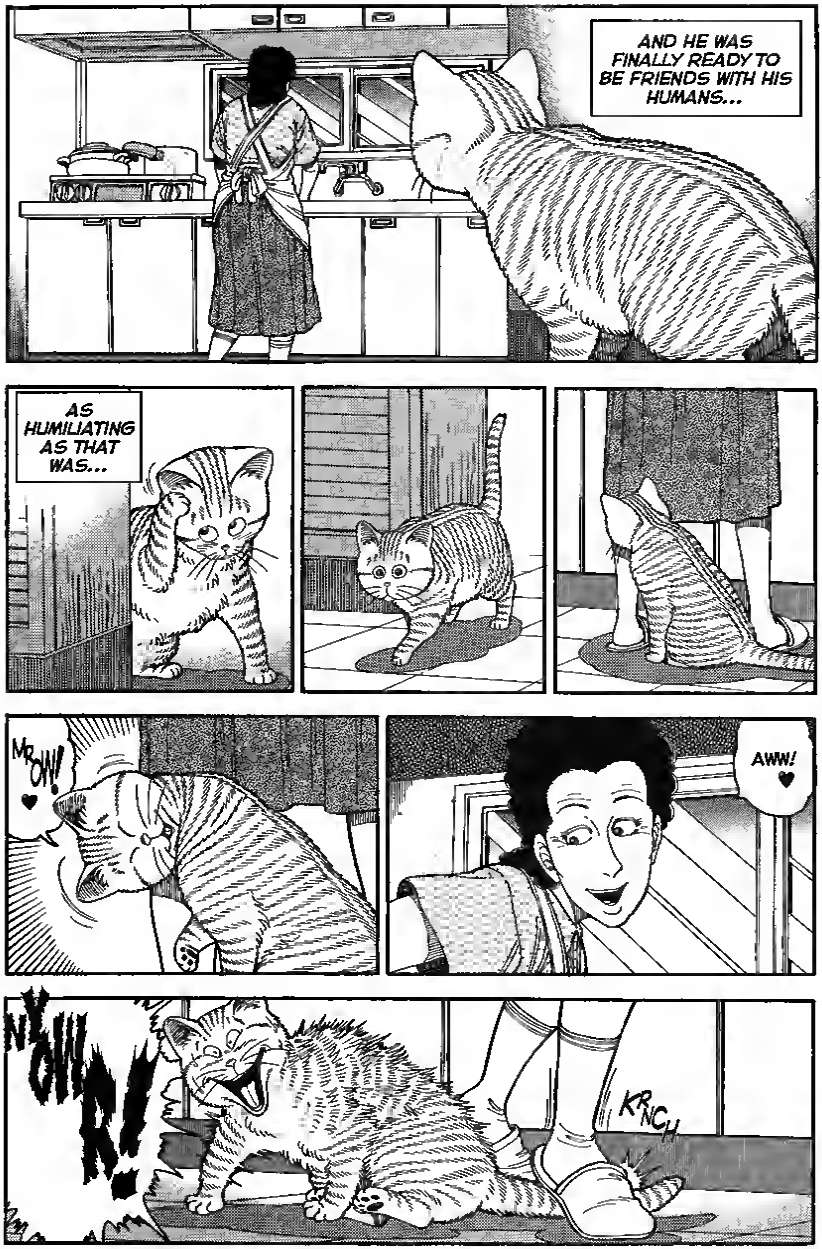
SHE CAME HOME!
HANAKO CAME HOME!!
AH?!
WONDER-FUL! A HAPPY ENDING!
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN OVERJOYED!
I WAS! I WAS! I CRIED LIKE A LITTLE BOY, AND I HUGGED AND KISSED HANAKO OVER AND OVER!
SNIFF!
AND THEN ...?
THEN...
THEN I... I...
I DUMPED HER FIFTY MILES AWAY!
WAHHH!

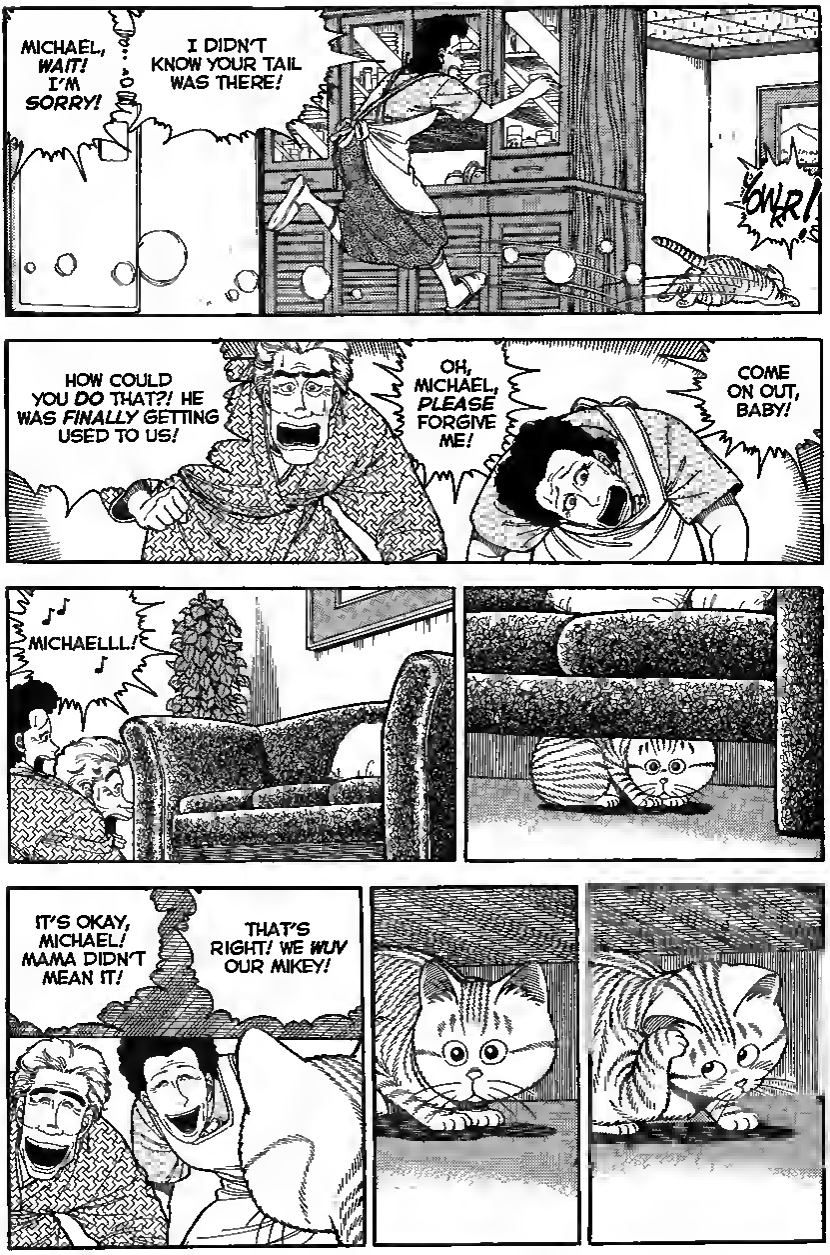
OH, MR. SUGU, PLEASE DON'T CRY.
THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT I'VE DONE!
EH ...?!
....?
TO TELL THE TRUTH--
--I RAN OVER A CAT ON MY WAY HERE!
AIKO! NOOOO! SAY IT ISN'T SO!
WHAT THE HELL WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO?!
THE DUMB CAT JUST... JUST THREW ITSELF IN FRONT OF MY CAR!
I SLAMMED ON THE BRAKES, BUT BLAMMD!
WAAAH!
THEY'LL ALL PAY FOR THIS!
THE END


FAMILY
MICHAEL
SIGH!
WHY ARE YOU SLEEPING THERE, SILLY?
WE MADE YOU A NICE LITTLE HOUSE TO REST IN. COME ON OUT.
MICHAEL COULDN'T HELP IT.

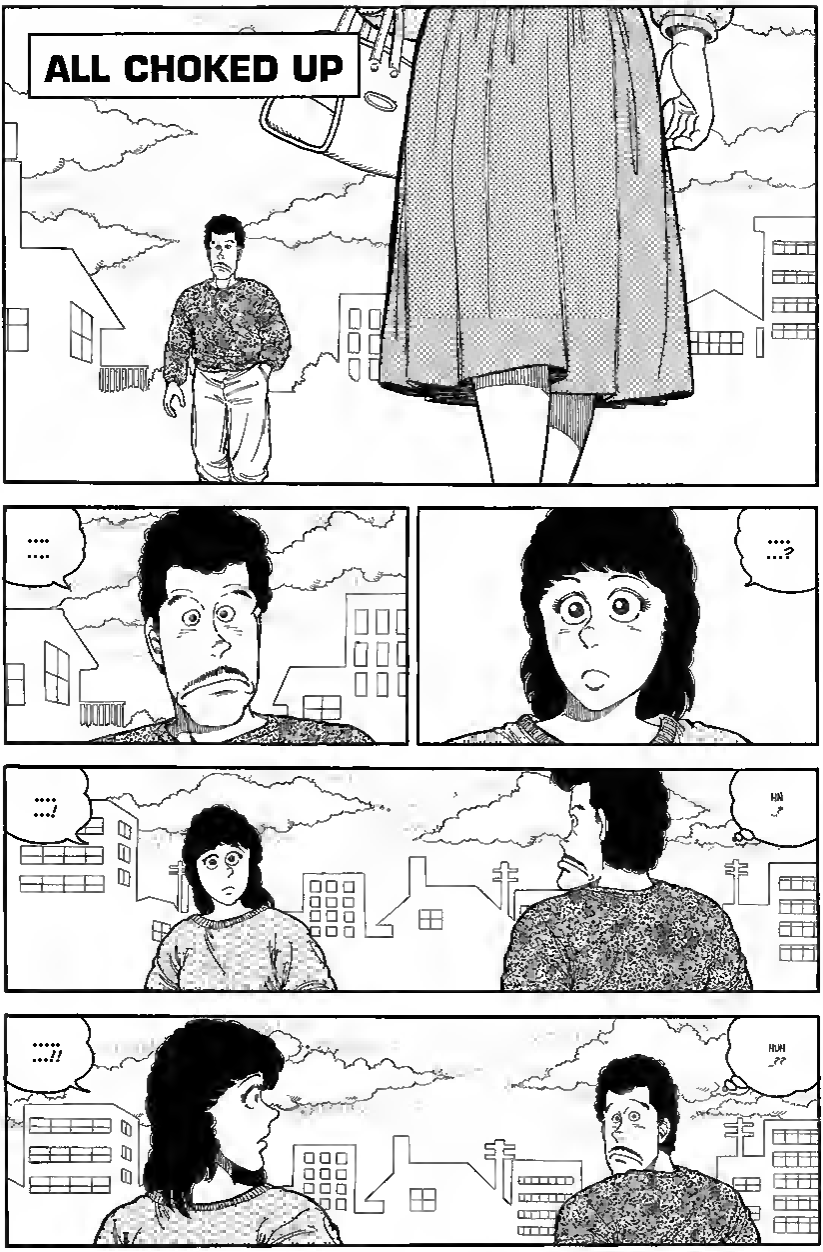

.....
.....
FDDFDDFDDFDD
HE HAD BEEN A STRAY, SO IT WAS HIS NATURE TO HIDE, AND TO SKULK AROUND.
FDDFDDFDDFDD
MICHAEL, YOU SILLY CAT! I CAN STILL SEE YOU!
YOO-HOO! MICHAELLL!
SUPPER-TIME!
COME ON, SWEETIE! DON'T BE SHY.
COME AND EAT.

....
....
THERE WE GO!!
FOOD FOOD FOOD FOOD
OH, MICHAEL, DON'T CARRY YOUR FOOD AWAY! EAT AT YOUR BOWL!
BUT, EVENTUALLY, MICHAEL DID LEARN TO ENJOY BEING A PET.

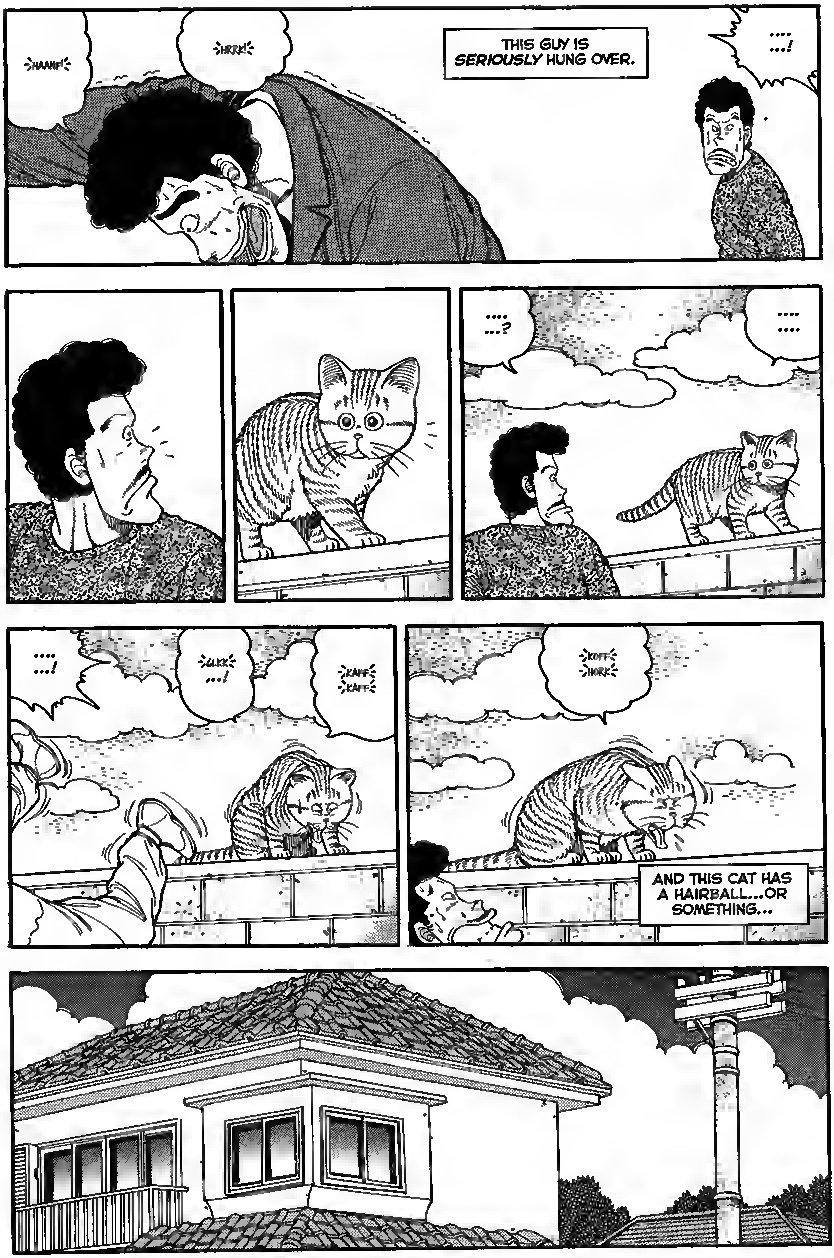

AND HE WAS FINALLY READY TO BE FRIENDS WITH HIS HUMANS...
AS HUMILIATING AS THAT WAS...
MROW!
AWW!
KRNCH


MICHAEL, WAIT! I'M SORRY!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOUR TAIL WAS THERE!
GWRR!
HOW COULD YOU DO THAT?! HE WAS FINALLY GETTING USED TO US!
OH, MICHAEL, PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
COME ON OUT, BABY!
MICHAELLL!
IT'S OKAY, MICHAEL! MAMA DIDN'T MEAN IT!
THAT'S RIGHT! WE WUV OUR MIKEY!

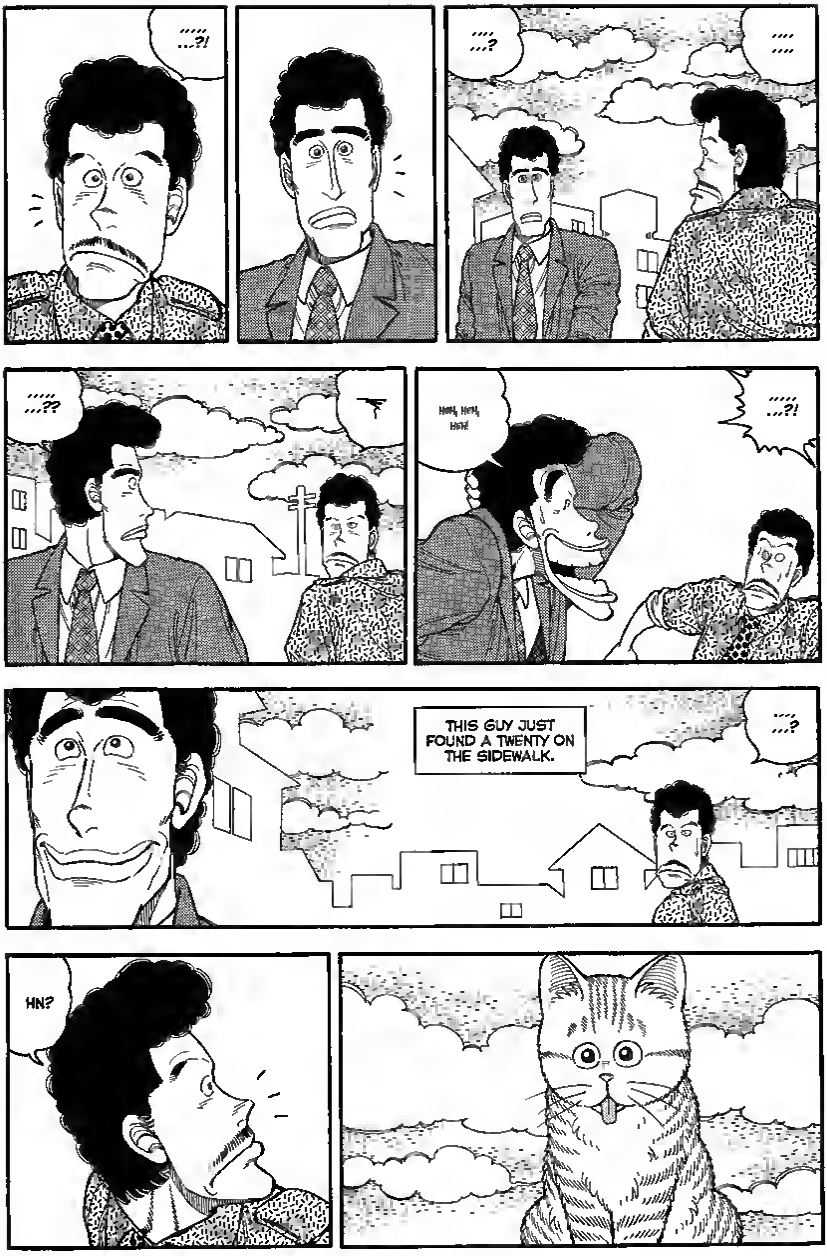
HE'S COMING OUT! HE *TRUSTS* US AGAIN!
YES, *YES!*
COME TO *MAMA!*
....
....
HAA.. AHH...
MAIOW!
AHH
CHOOO!!
YOU IDIOT!
NOW WE'RE BACK TO *SQUARE ONE!*
STOP YELLING AT ME!
I DIDN'T SNEEZE *ON PURPOSE!*
MICHAEL AND HIS NEW OWNERS STILL HAD A *LOT* OF ADJUSTING TO DO...
THE END


ALL CHOKED UP
.....
.....?
.....!
HUH
.....!!
HUH

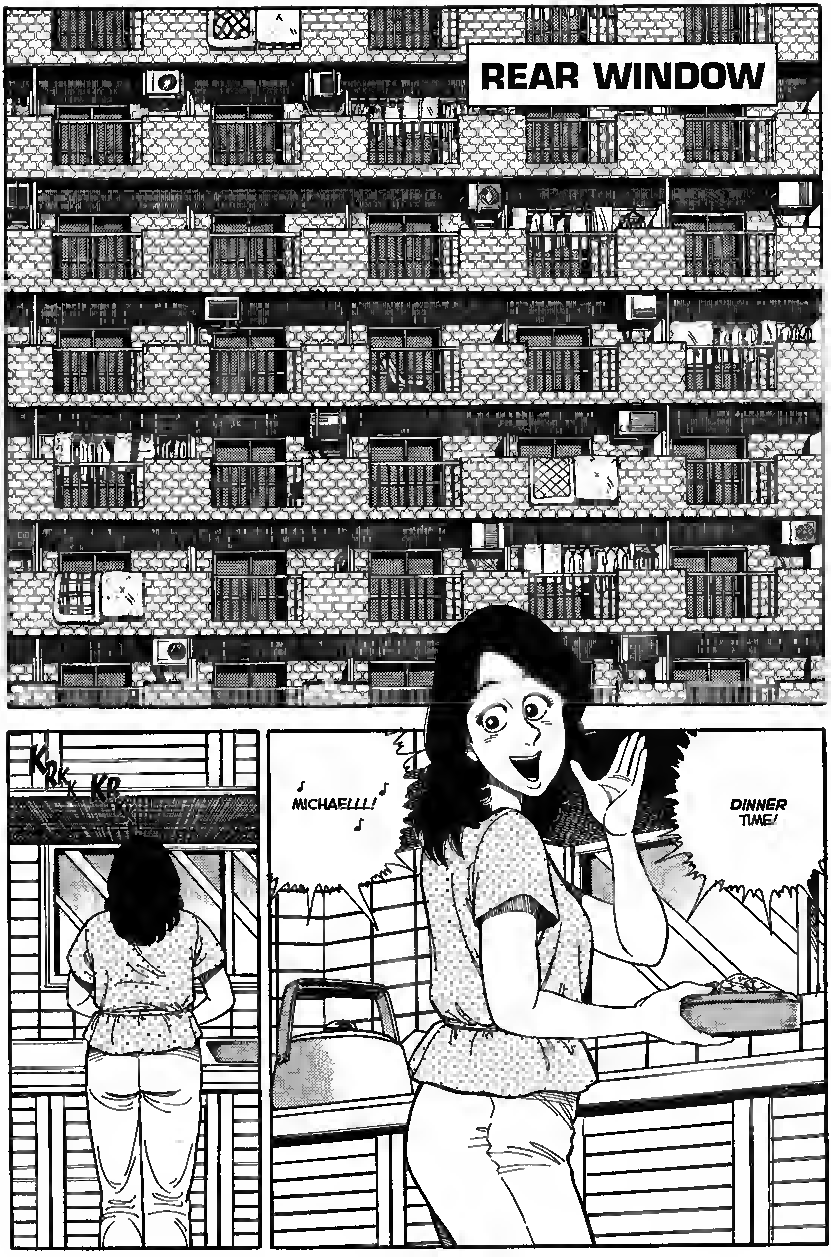
HERE'S SAC-SUN!
WHAT TH—?!
HNGH HUEK
THIS POOR WOMAN HAS FOOD POISONING.
WHAT
HU_?
....
....
....!
....?
HUEK...
GAGK!
HUH_?!


THIS GUY IS SERIOUSLY HUNG OVER.
HAAAH!
HRRR!
....!
....?
....
....!
KAFF KAFF
KOFF HRRK
AND THIS CAT HAS A HAIRBALL...OR SOMETHING...

....
....
....?
....
....!
....?
THIS LADY'S BABY JUST KICKED HER. THAT'S ALL.
....?


...?!
...?
...?
...?!
HEH, HEH, HEH
...?
THIS GUY JUST FOUND A TWENTY ON THE SIDEWALK.
...?
HN?

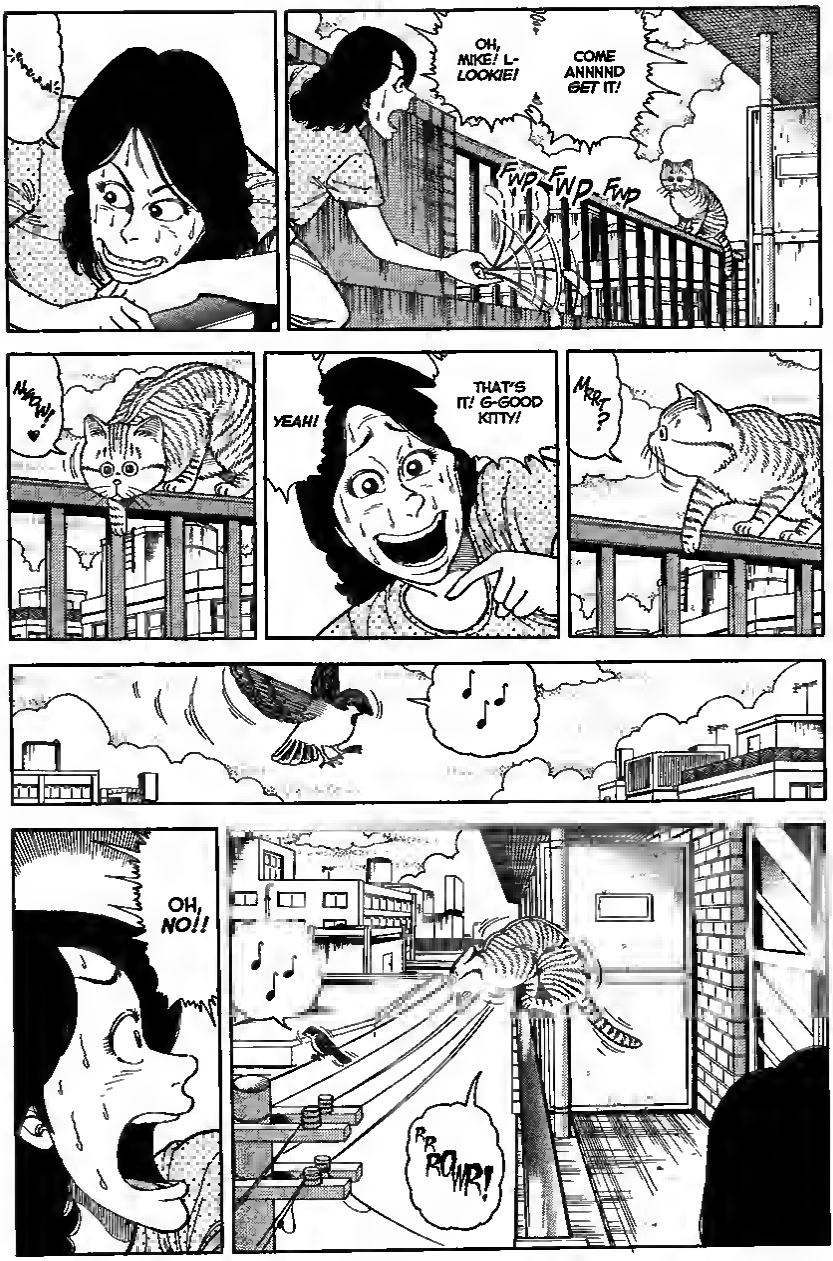
....?
....
....
ACTUALLY, MICHAEL HERE IS *INDEED* MAKING FUN OF MR. KOBAYASHI.
BUT FORGET ABOUT THE FACT THAT MICHAEL'S ARTIST HAS BEEN *MOCKED* AND *HUMILIATED* UNMERCIFULLY FOR THIS ENTIRE EPISODE! REMEMBER THAT *PREGNANT* LADY...? WELL, THIS WAS THE FIRST DAY MICHAEL CAME "FACE TO TUMMY" WITH WHAT WAS SOON TO BE HIS *DEADLIEST* RIVAL-- A *HUMAN BABY!*
REVENGE IS SWEET!
THE END


REAR WINDOW
KNK KNK
♪ MICHAELLL! ♪
♪
DINNER TIME!

...?
TMP
TMP
MRR..?
M... MIKE!

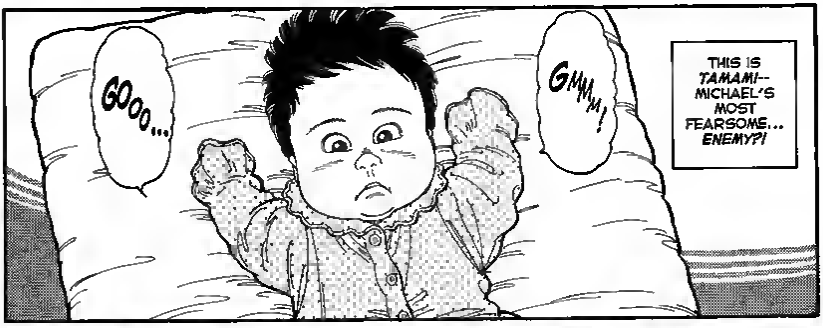
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU NOT TO WALK ON THE RAILING?!
MRAW?
AAUGH!
NO! NO! DON'T TURN AROUND!!
D-DOWN... DOWN...
G-GET DOWN, MIKE!
COME ONNNN!
STOP

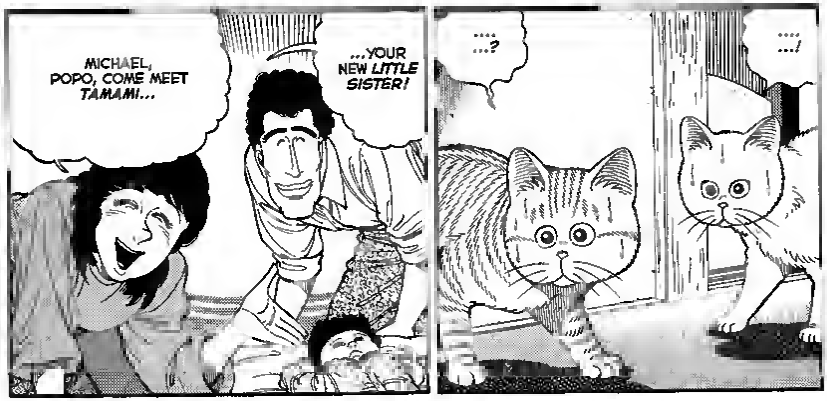
....!
P-PLEASE, MIKE...!
HOP DOWN!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO FALL!
THP THP THP
WAHHG! DON'T RUN!!
SKRCH SKRCH
YEEK! DON'T SCRATCH! KEEP ALL YOUR FEET ON THE RAILING!
WHSSSSH
MMMIIILKE!

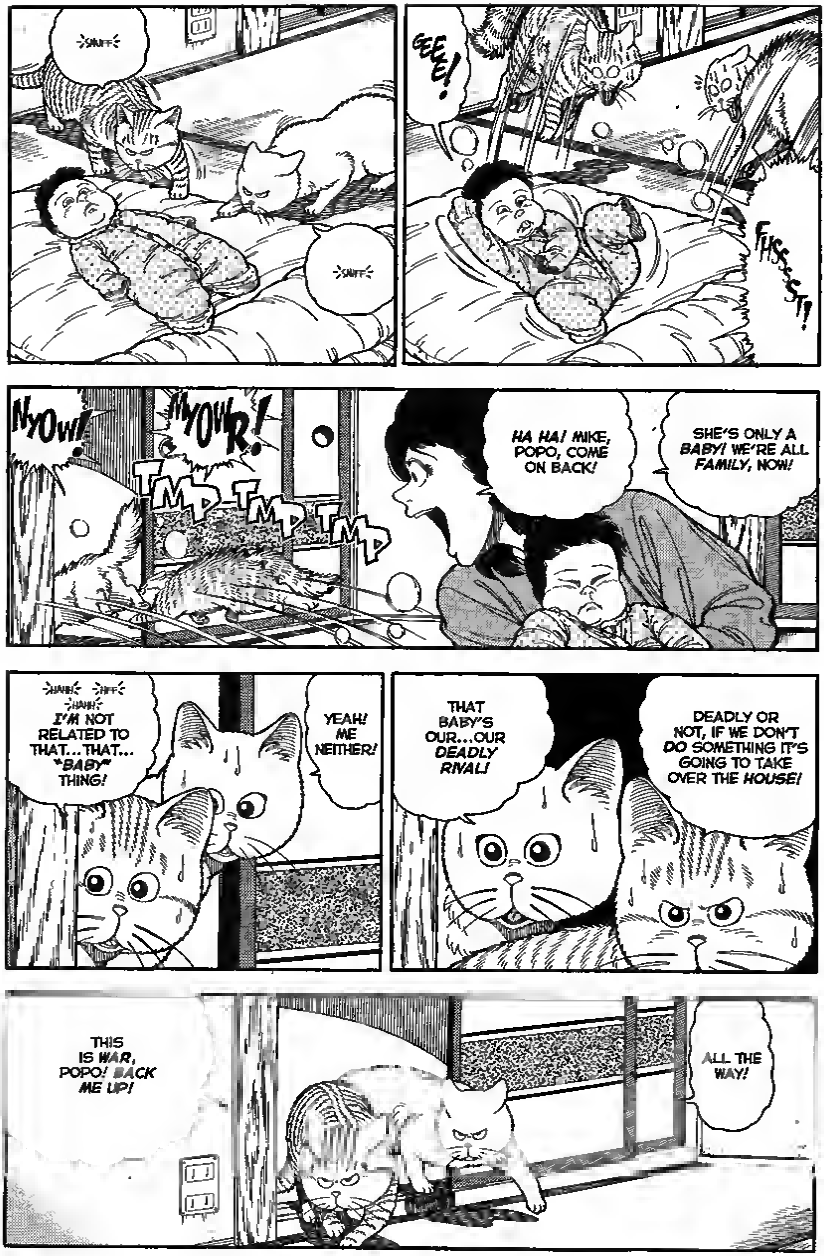

OH, MIKE! L-LOOKIE!
COME ANNNND GET IT!
FWD-FWD-FWD
MRRW!
YEAH!
THAT'S IT! G-GOOD KITTY!
MRR?
OH, NO!!
RR ROAR!

MICHAELLL!!!!
YOU CAN'T GET THAT STUPID BIRD! YOU'RE JUST GONNA FALL!
WSSSH
MYOWRR!
NOOO!!
COME ON!! YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK MICHAEL WAS GOING TO SPLAT HIMSELF OVER A DUMB OLD SPARROW, DID YOU?
"MEWW" MY BUTT! I WANT TO THROW YOU OFF MYSELF, NOW!
MEW W?
SADLY, SOME PEOPLE JUST DON'T APPRECIATE A CAT'S SENSE OF HUMOR.
THE END

MICHAEL'S BABY SISTER
御祝
寿
松本
小柴
寿
夕崎

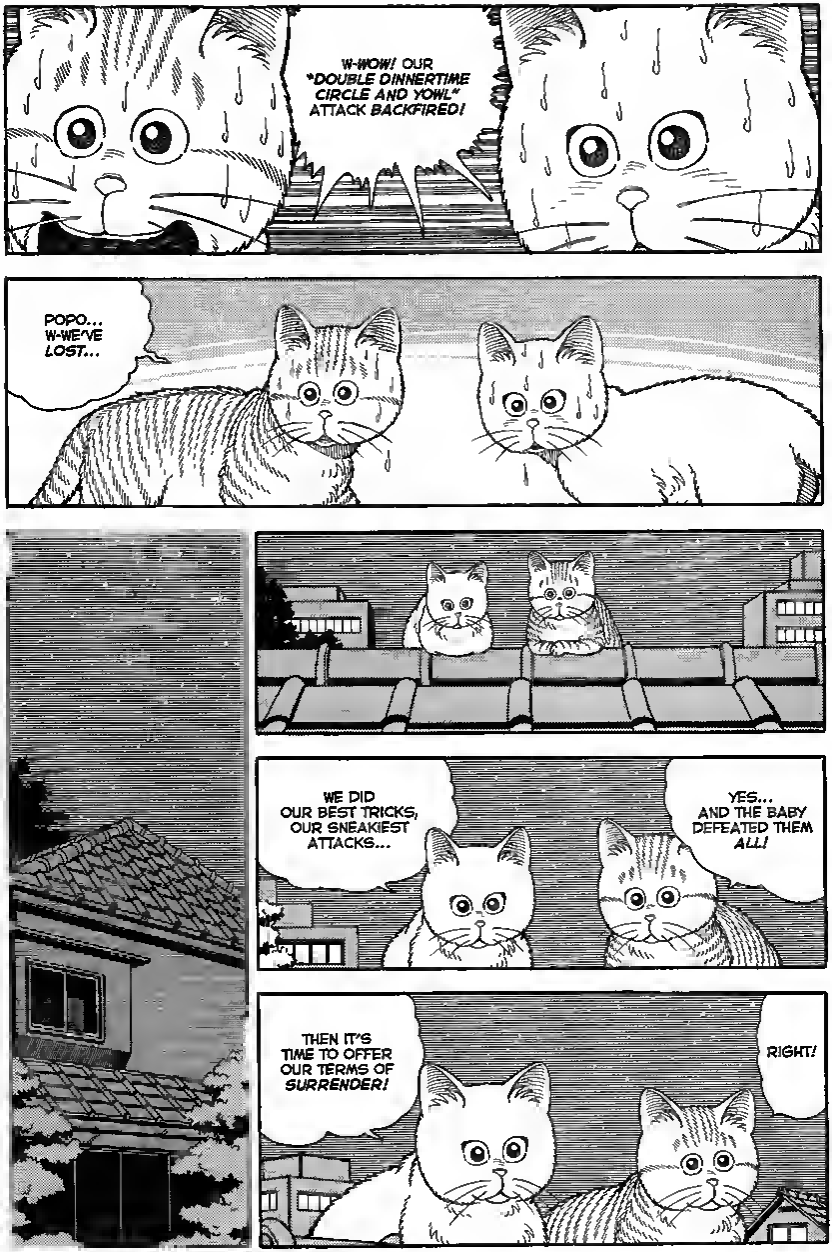

GOoo...
GMMM!
THIS IS TAMAMI!-- MICHAEL'S MOST FEARSOME... ENEMY?!


MICHAEL, POPO, COME MEET TAMAMI...
...YOUR NEW LITTLE SISTER!
....?
....!


SNIFF
SNIFF
EEE!
HISSSS!
NYOWR!
NYOWR!
TMP-TMP-TMP
HA HA! MIKE, POPO, COME ON BACK!
SHE'S ONLY A BABY! WE'RE ALL FAMILY, NOW!
I'M NOT RELATED TO THAT... THAT... "BABY" THING!
YEAH! ME NEITHER!
THAT BABY'S OUR... OUR DEADLY RIVAL!
DEADLY OR NOT, IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING IT'S GOING TO TAKE OVER THE HOUSE!
THIS IS WAR, POPO! BACK ME UP!
ALL THE WAY!

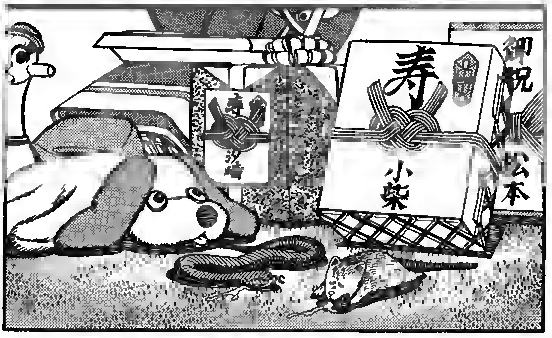
♪ ♪
OOH, TAMAMI IS POOPIE! WET'S CHANGE HER DIAPIES! ♪
EEE! EEE!
....
....
ONE... TWO...
THREE!
MYOW?
MEWR?
AH!! HONEY, SHE SMILED!
SHE DID! MY TAMAMI SMILED AT ME!
OOH, YOU IS SO CUUUTE!!
....! ....!
MIKE, WHAT'S HAPPENING?! OUR "DOUBLE MEOW MEOW" ATTACK DIDN'T EVEN FAZE IT!
B-BUT... HOW COULD ANY CAT HOPE TO BEAT THE TERROR OF THE SMILING BABY ASSAULT?!

SHE... SHE HAS NO MERCY!!
OKAY, THEN··WE HAVE NO CHOICE! IT'S TIME FOR THE "DINNERTIME CIRCLE AND YOWL" ATTACK!!
RIGHT!
YOWRR!
MIOWR!
NYOWR!
WAAAAHH! AH AH AWWWHN!
:::?
:::?
WAH! WAH! WAAHHHN!
SHHH... SHHH...
MY SWEET TAMAMI-AMI IS HUNGRY, ISN'T SHE?
WUUU- AHHHHNNN!


W-WOW! OUR "DOUBLE DINNERTIME CIRCLE AND YOWL" ATTACK BACKFIRED!
POPO... W-WE'VE LOST...
WE DID OUR BEST TRICKS, OUR SNEAKIEST ATTACKS...
YES... AND THE BABY DEFEATED THEM ALL!
THEN IT'S TIME TO OFFER OUR TERMS OF SURRENDER!
RIGHT!

HMM
...?

....
....


寿
御祝
小柴
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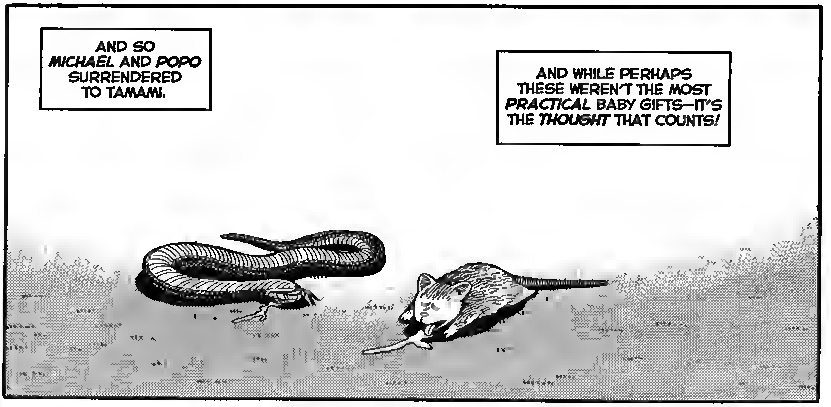
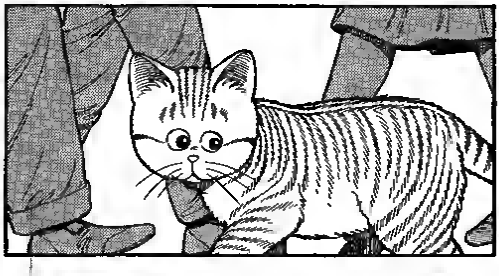
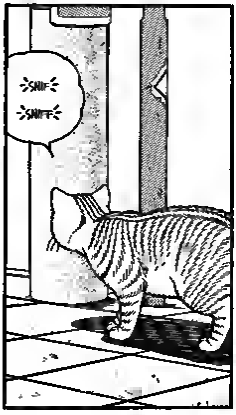
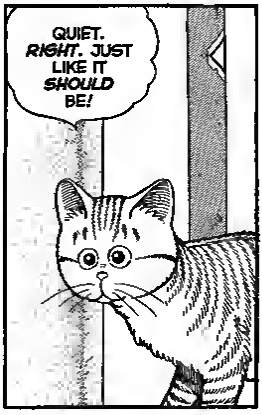
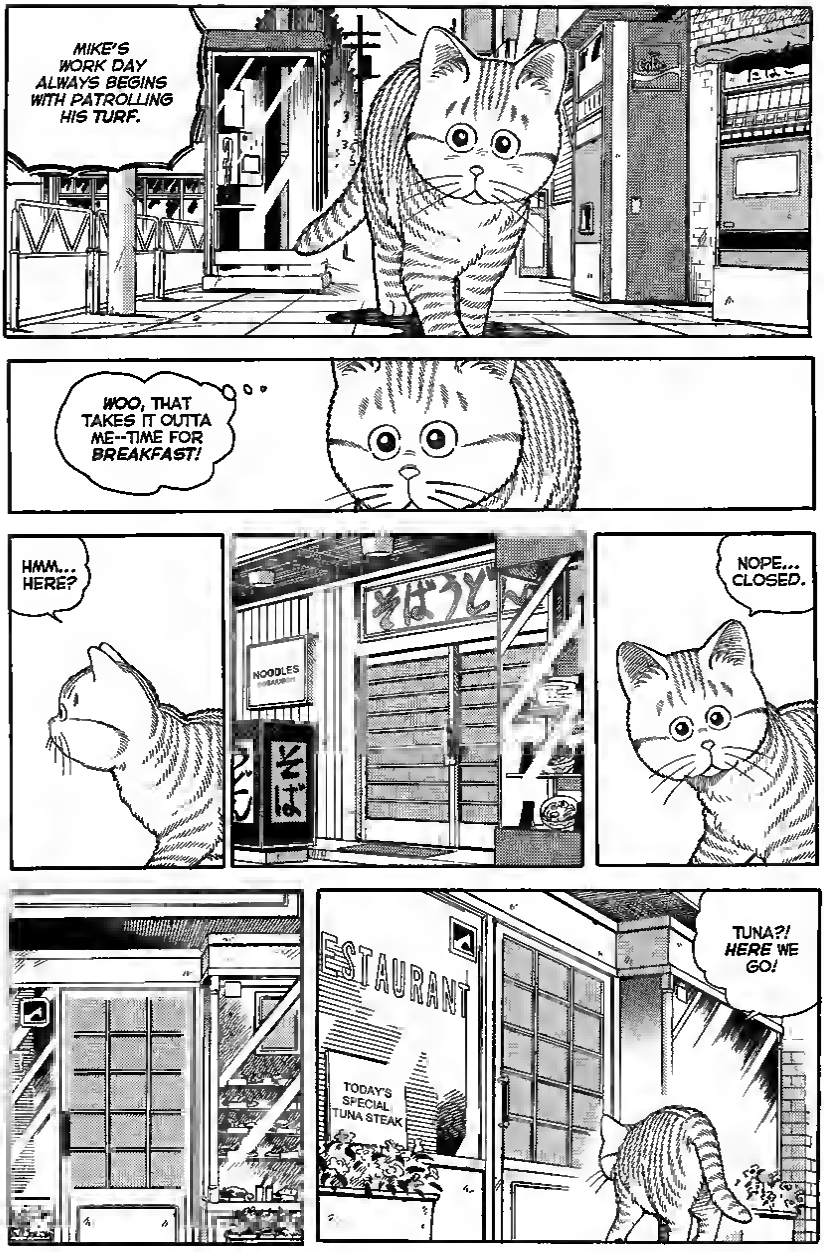

AND SO MICHAEL AND POPO SURRENDERED TO TAMAMI.
AND WHILE PERHAPS THESE WEREN'T THE MOST PRACTICAL BABY GIFTS—IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS!
THE END

MICHAEL: FAT CAT IN THE CITY



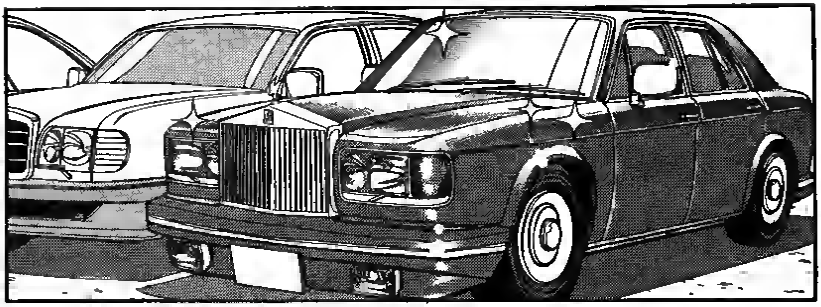


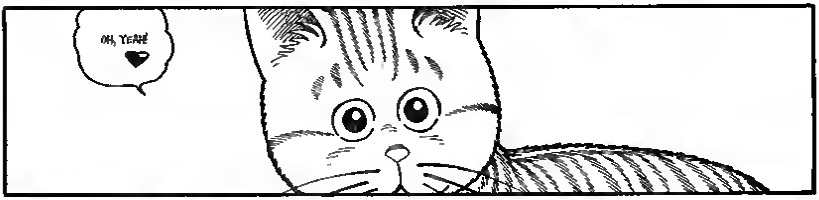


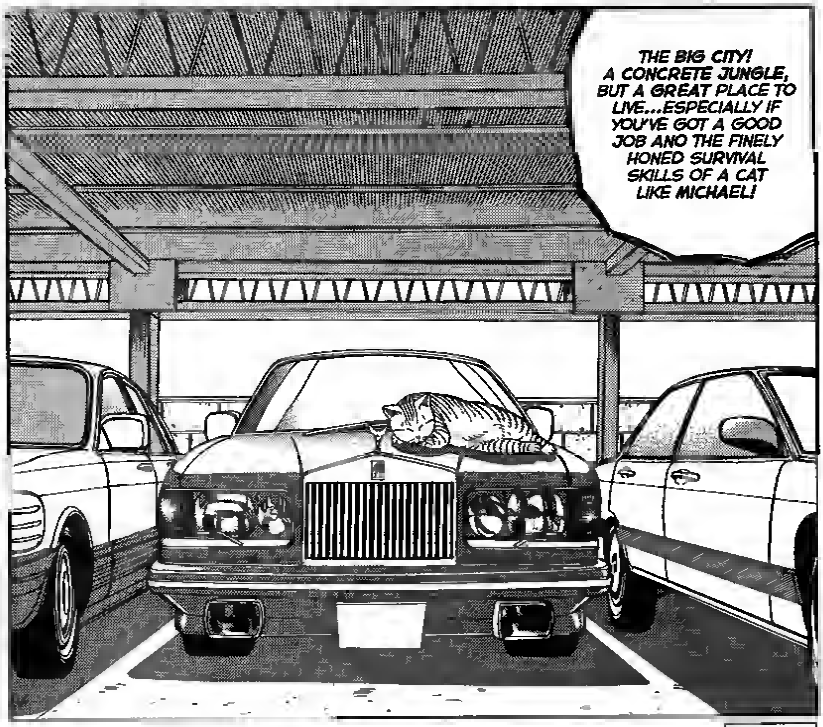

MIKE'S WORK DAY ALWAYS BEGINS WITH PATROLLING HIS TURF.
WOO, THAT TAKES IT OUTTA ME--TIME FOR BREAKFAST!
HMM... HERE?
NOODLES
NOPE... CLOSED.
ESTAURANT
TODAY'S SPECIAL TUNA STEAK
TUNA?! HERE WE GO!

HEY, LOUIE! LOOK WHO IT IS!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN FOREVER, "LUCKY"...!
GOT SOMETHIN' SPECIAL FOR YA! IT'S TUNA DAY!
MIKE WEARS MANY HATS IN HIS LIKE OF WORK. AT THIS RESTAURANT, HE'S KNOWN AS "LUCKY." NEXT DOOR, HE'S "STRIPES."
MMM, TUNA! ♥ ALWAYS HITS THE SPOT!
SKRCH SKRCH

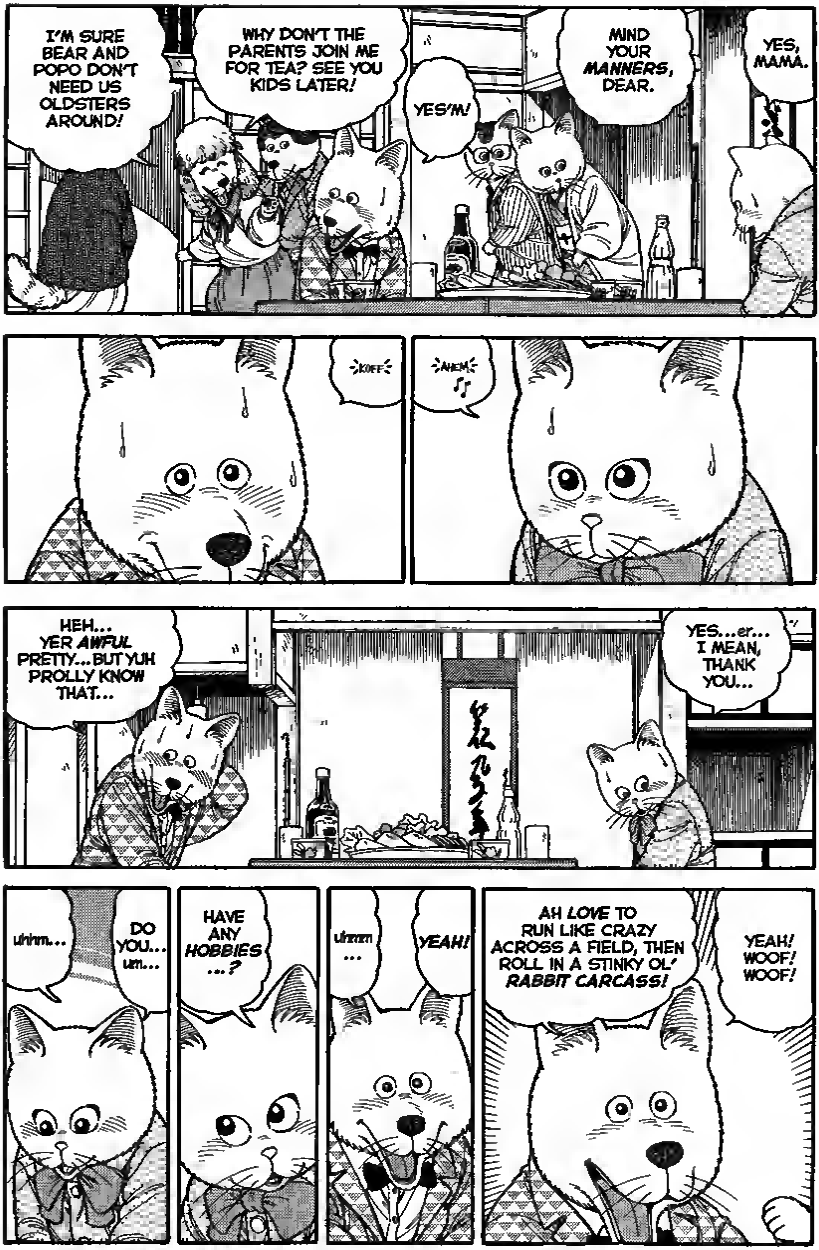
SKRCH
SKRCH
NO STANDING IN LINE FOR MICHAEL! THERE'S ALWAYS A HANDY SPOT WHEN HE NEEDS TO GO!
TIME FOR A POWER NAP!
WHAT A MORNING ...I'M BEAT!




OH, YEAH!

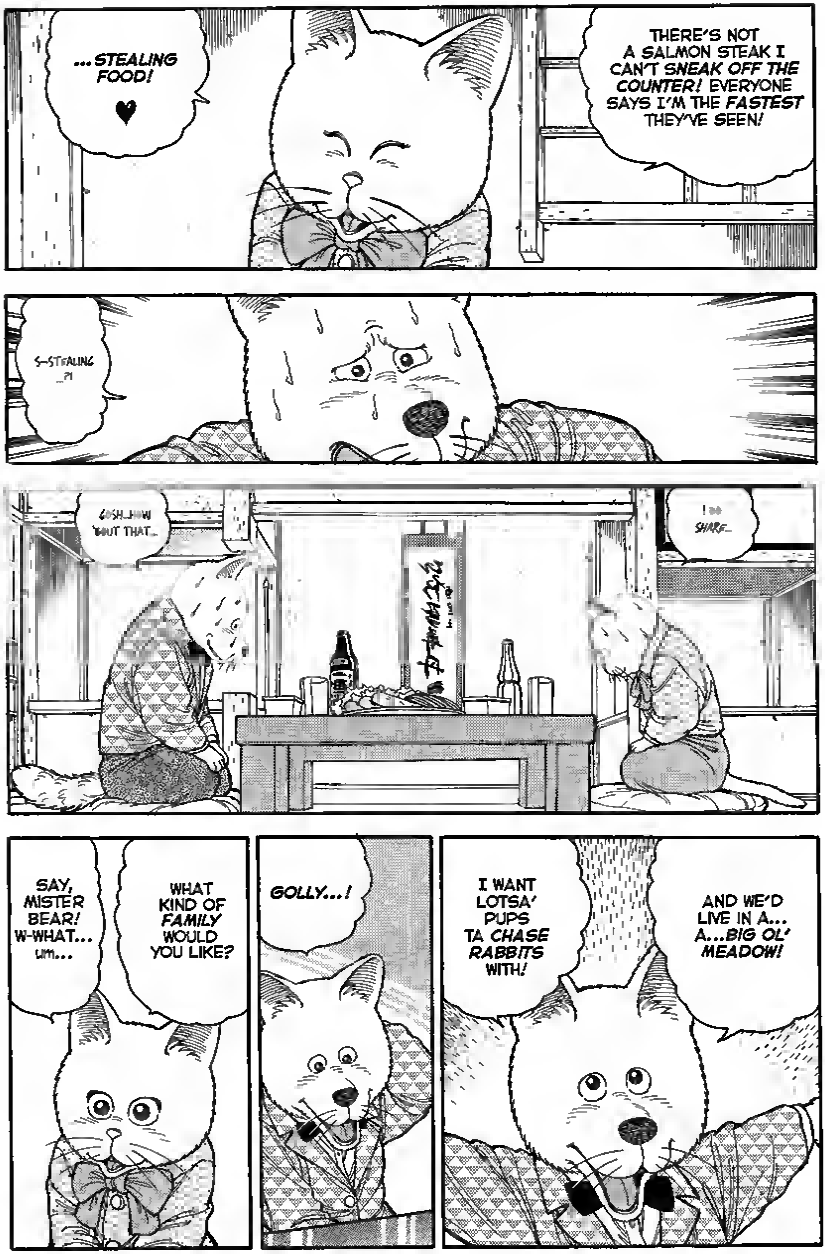

THE BIG CITY! A CONCRETE JUNGLE, BUT A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE...ESPECIALLY IF YOU'VE GOT A GOOD JOB AND THE FINELY HONED SURVIVAL SKILLS OF A CAT LIKE MICHAEL!
THE END

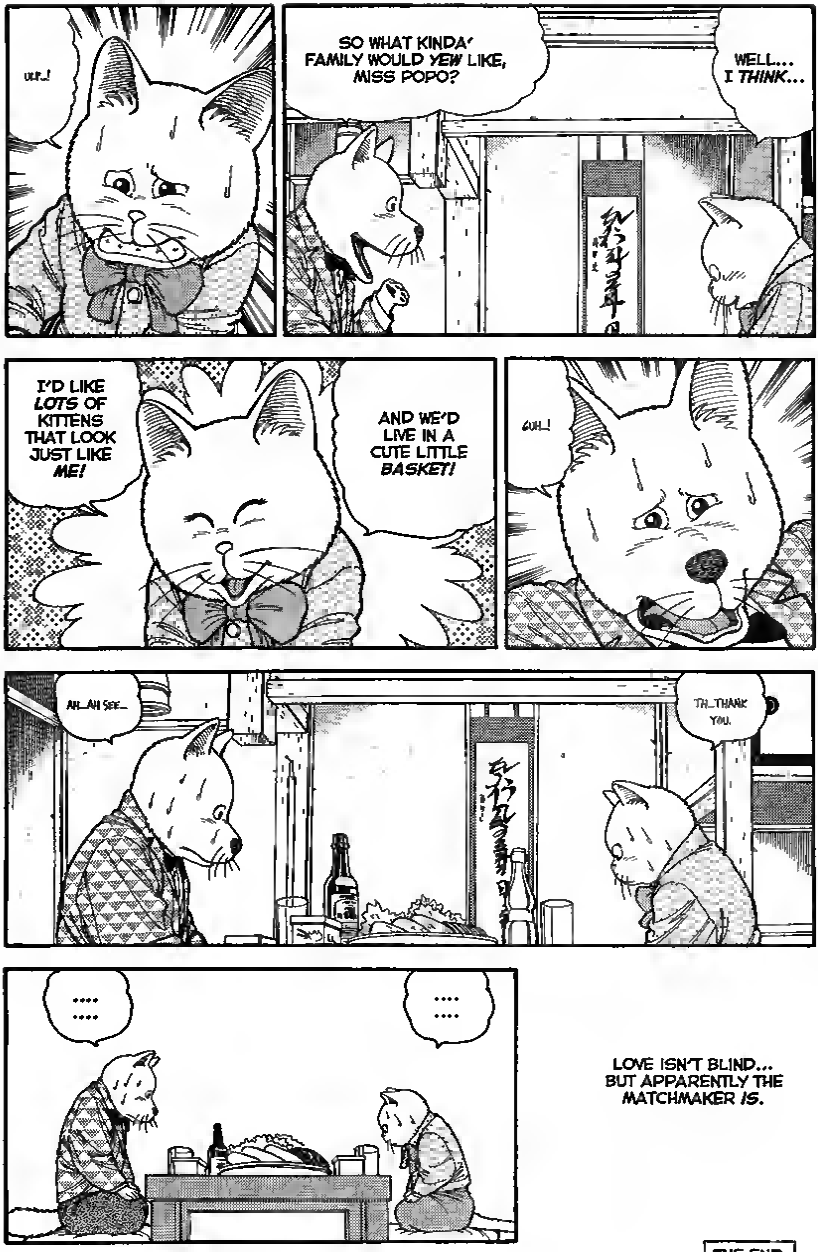
POPO'S BLIND DATE
THIS IS MISS POPO!
SHE HAS A MASTER'S DEGREE FROM MEOWMEOW UNIVERSITY IN HOME ECONOMICS AND WORKS AT "MISS KITTY'S DAYCARE"...!
H-HELLO.
SO NICE TO MEET YOU.
AND THIS FINE FELLOW...
...IS MISTER BEAR, A GRADUATE OF BOWWOW UNIVERSITY. HE'S CHOWCHOW TRADING COMPANY'S ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE MAHAGER!
YUP, THAT'S ME!
PLEASED T' MEETCHA!

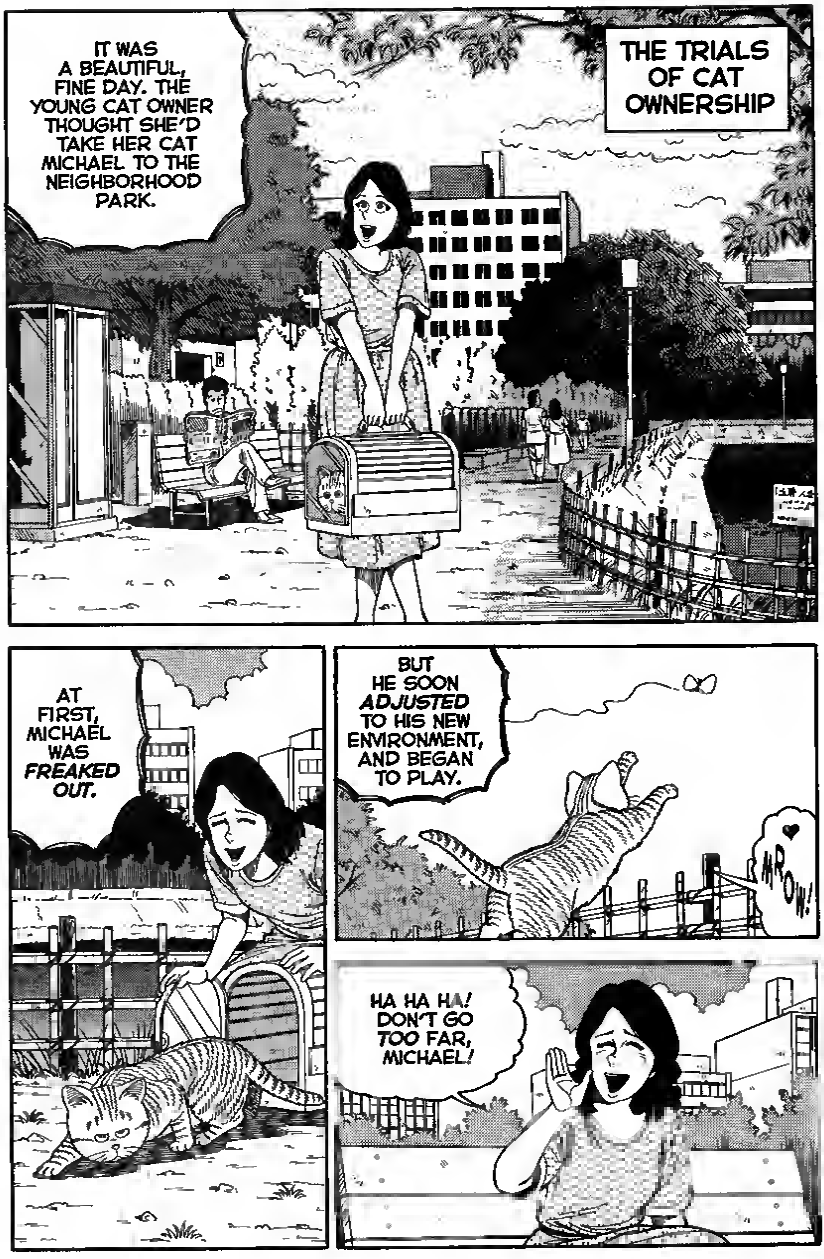

I'M SURE BEAR AND POPO DON'T NEED US OLDSTERS AROUND!
WHY DON'T THE PARENTS JOIN ME FOR TEA? SEE YOU KIDS LATER!
YES'M!
MIND YOUR MANNERS, DEAR.
YES, MAMA.
KOFF
AHEM
HEH... YER AWFUL PRETTY... BUT YUH PROLLY KNOW THAT...
YES... er... I MEAN, THANK YOU...
uhhm...
DO YOU... um...
HAVE ANY HOBBIES ...?
uhmm ...
YEAH!
AH LOVE TO RUN LIKE CRAZY ACROSS A FIELD, THEN ROLL IN A STINKY OL' RABBIT CARCASS!
YEAH! WOOF! WOOF!

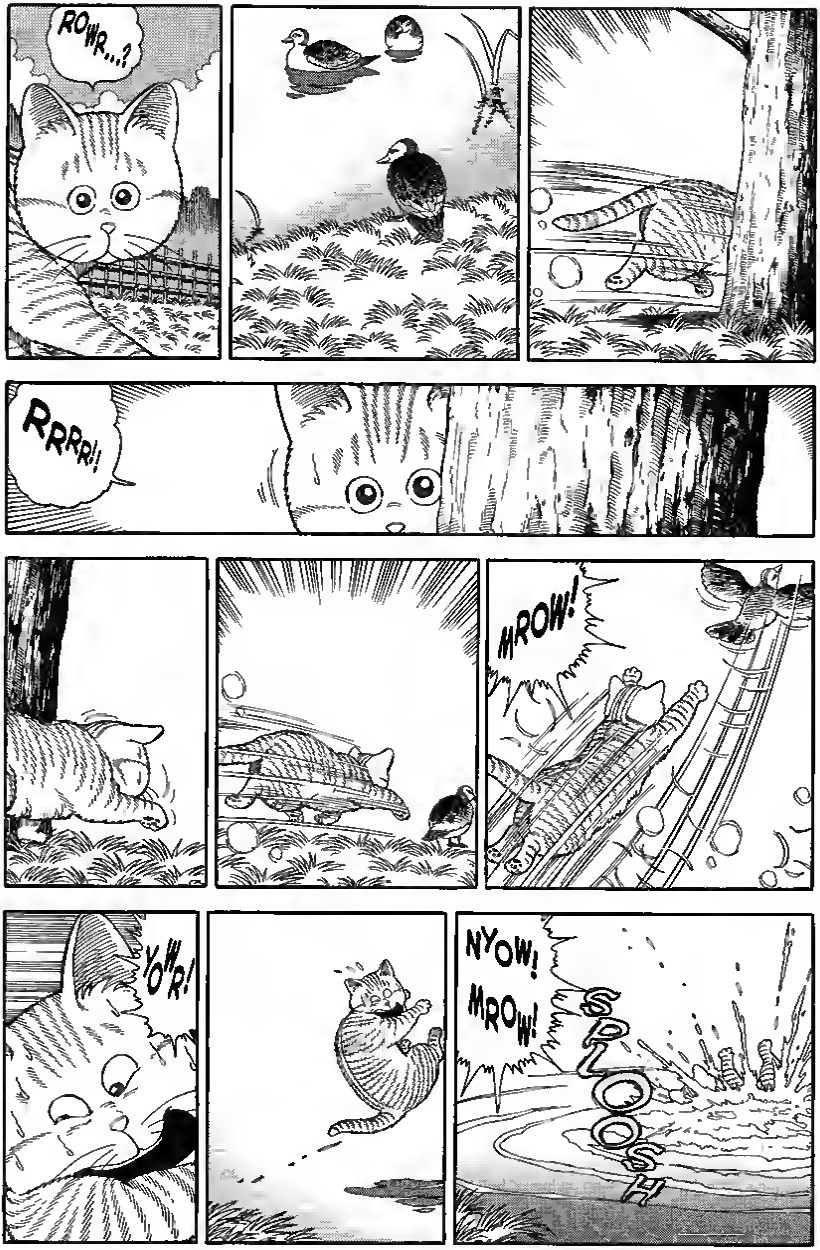
ah... EH?!
....!
H-HOW 'BOUT YEW, MISS POPO? YUH GOT A HOBBY?
MINE? ahem:... WELLL...
I LOVE SLEEPING!
AND I JUST ADORE SITTING PERFECTLY STILL FOR HOURS AND HOURS!
JEST... SITTING?
UH...AH MEAN, NOTHIN' WRONG WITH SITTING...
OR, my R-ROLLING...
S-SO, MISS POPO... WHAT KIND OF FELLA DO YOU LIKE?
ME ...?
I NEVER TOLD ANYONE BEFORE, BUT...
MY PERFECT MAN WOULD BE ABLE TO RACE STRAIGHT UP A TREE!

U-UP A TREE...?
UH...AH CAN'T DO THAT.
AH CAN'T EVEN CLIMB A FOOT UP A TREE.
ACK!
S-SORRY
M-ME TOO
B-BUT, YUH KNOW, AH'M GREAT AT PROTECTIN' MAH PEOPLE! 'CEPT FOR THE TIME AH SCREWED UP AND LET A BURGLAR IN!
I GOT BEAT REAL GOOD FOR THAT!
AH'M SUCH A DORK, SOMETIMES!
heh, ha ha eh...
OH MY GOD...
THERE MUST BE SOMETHIN' YER GOOD AT, MISS POPO!
WELL....
THERE IS.
WHAT I'M BEST AT IS...

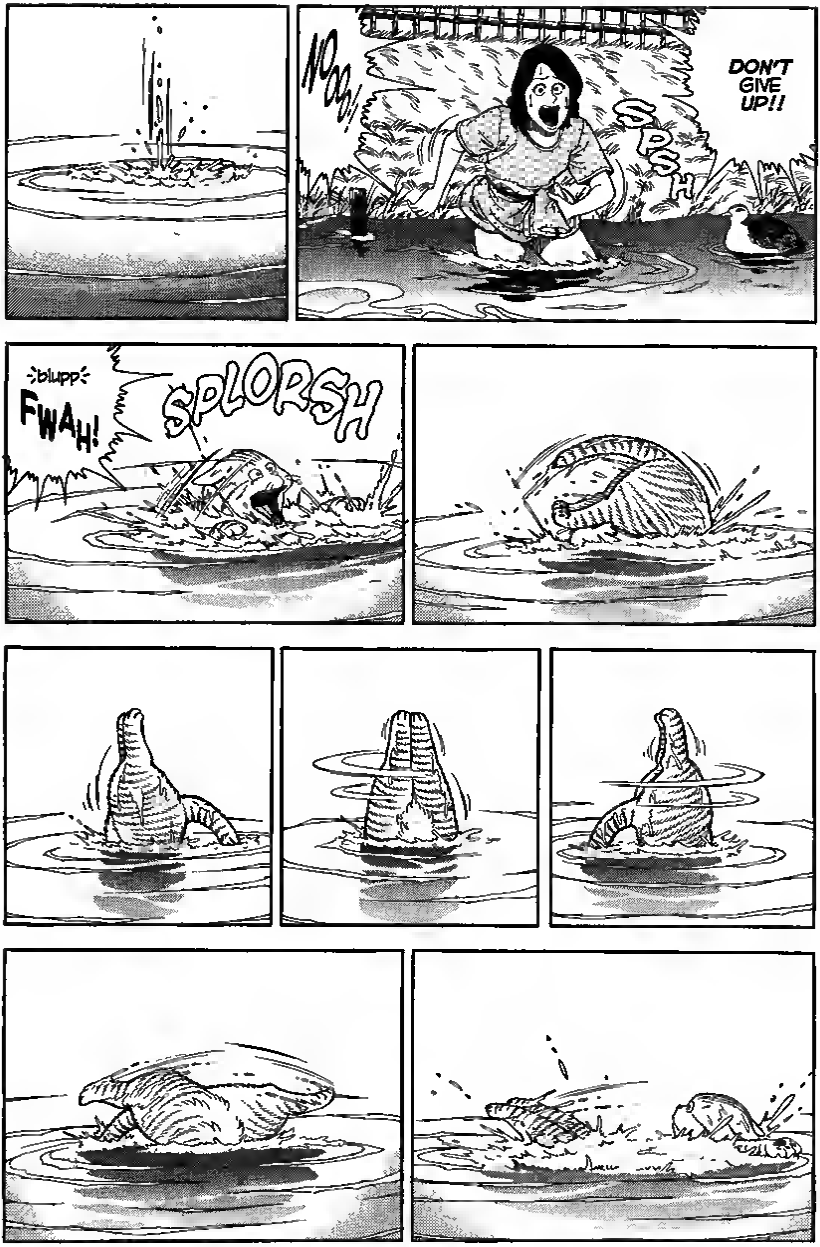

...STEALING FOOD!
THERE'S NOT A SALMON STEAK I CAN'T SNEAK OFF THE COUNTER! EVERYONE SAYS I'M THE FASTEST THEY'VE SEEN!
S-STEALING...?!
GOSH...HOW 'BOUT THAT...
I DO SHARE...
SAY, MISTER BEAR! W-WHAT... UM...
WHAT KIND OF FAMILY WOULD YOU LIKE?
GOLLY...!
I WANT LOTSA' PUPS TA CHASE RABBITS WITH!
AND WE'D LIVE IN A... A...BIG OL' MEADOW!

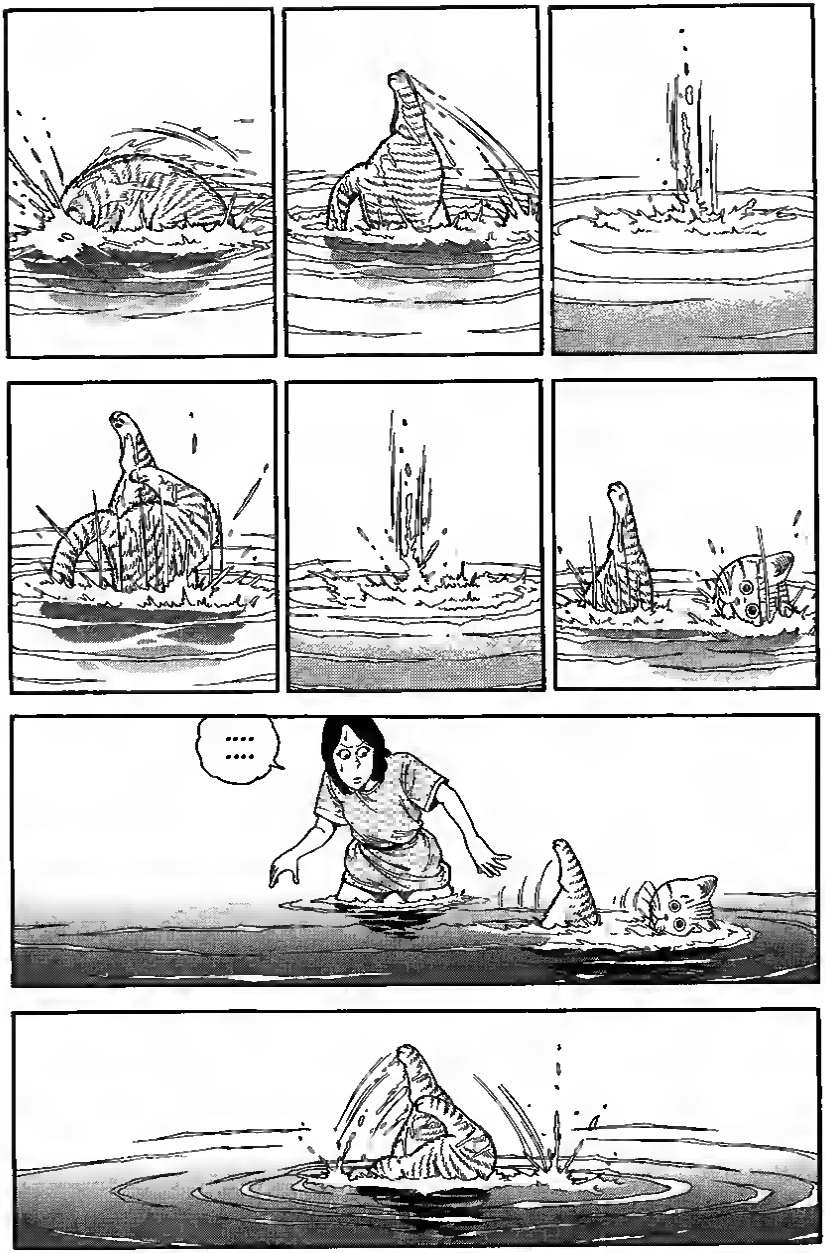

ULP..!
SO WHAT KINDA' FAMILY WOULD *YEW* LIKE, MISS POPO?
WELL... I *THINK*...
I'D LIKE *LOTS* OF KITTENS THAT LOOK JUST LIKE *ME!*
AND WE'D LIVE IN A CUTE LITTLE *BASKET!*
GUH..!
AH...AH SEE...
TH...THANK YOU.
....
....
....
....
LOVE ISN'T BLIND... BUT APPARENTLY THE MATCHMAKER *IS*.
THE END

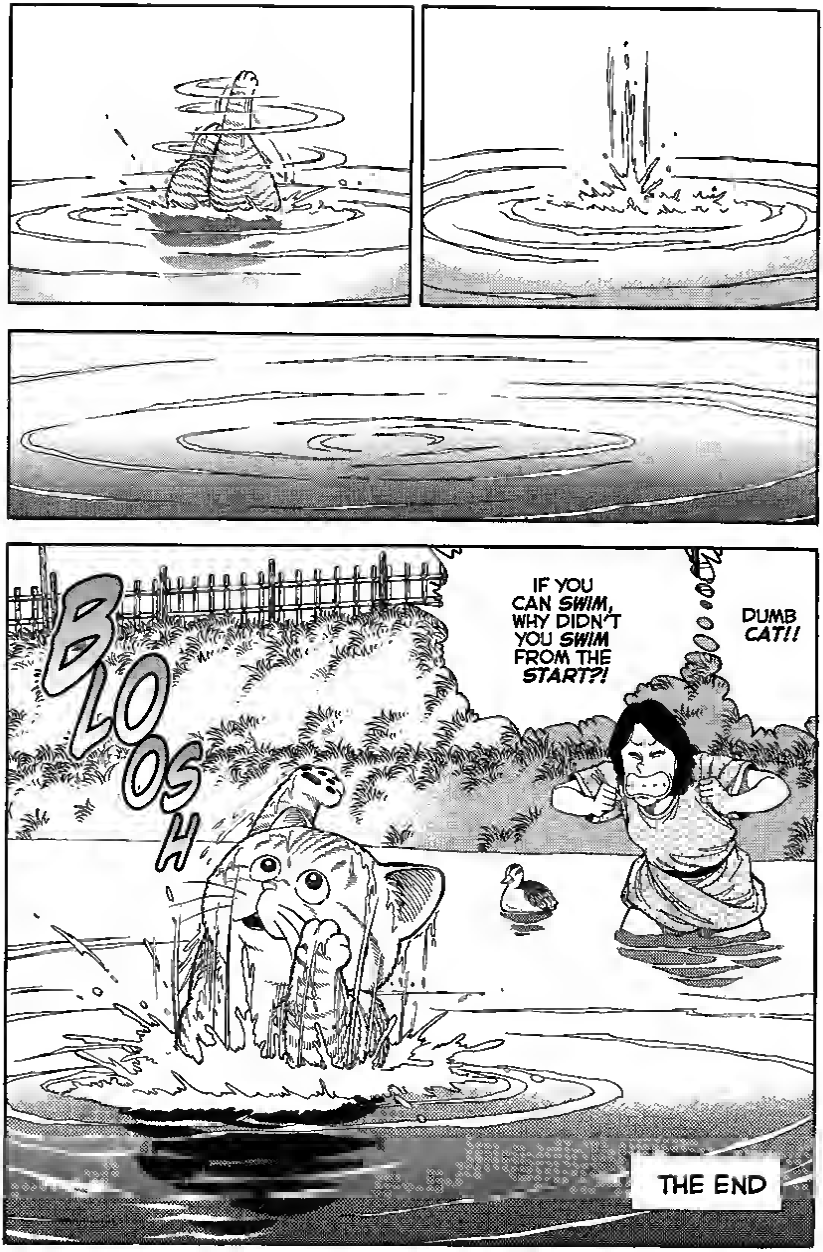

THE TRIALS OF CAT OWNERSHIP
IT WAS A BEAUTIFUL, FINE DAY. THE YOUNG CAT OWNER THOUGHT SHE'D TAKE HER CAT MICHAEL TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK.
AT FIRST, MICHAEL WAS *FREAKED OUT.*
BUT HE SOON *ADJUSTED* TO HIS NEW ENVIRONMENT, AND BEGAN TO PLAY.
MROW!
HA HA HA! DON'T GO *TOO* FAR, MICHAEL!

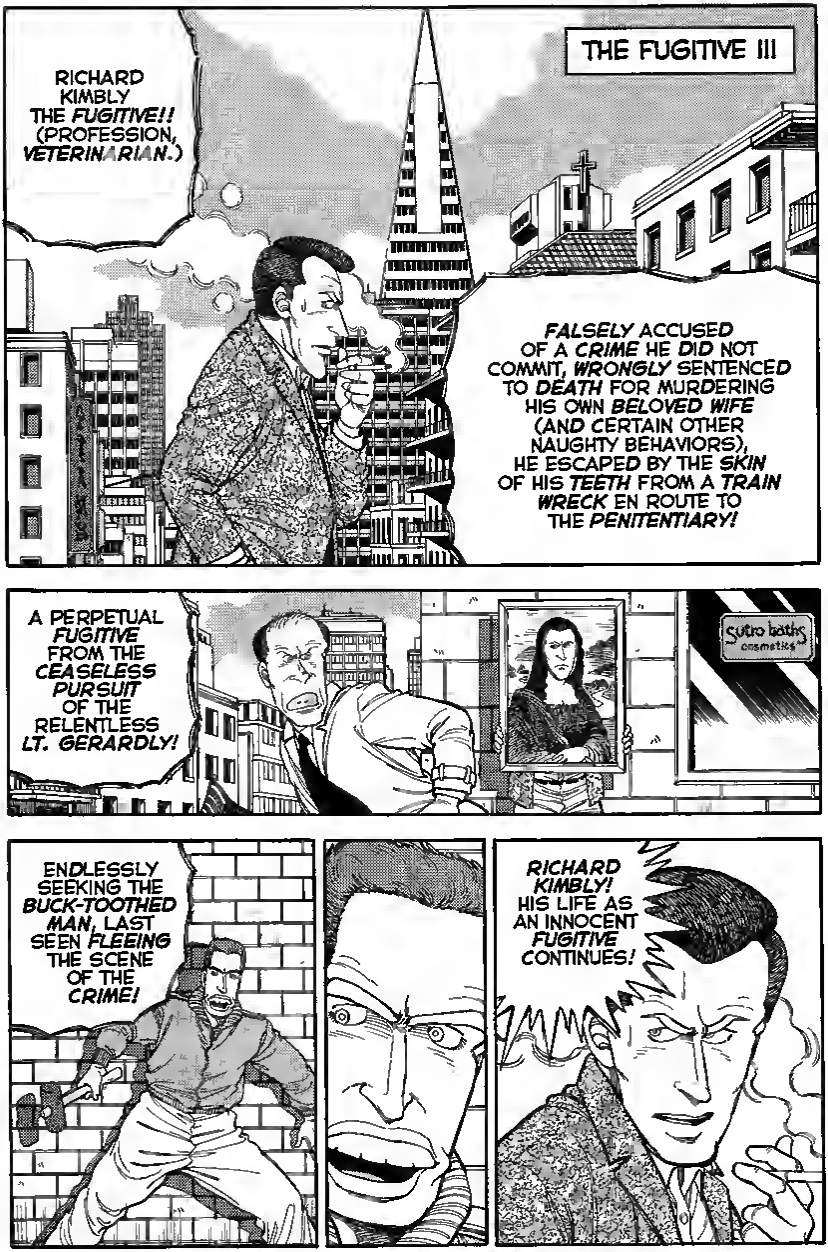

ROWR...?
RRRR!
MROW!
YO"R!
NYOW!
MROW!
SPLOSH

FSSJ!
YOWL!
SPLSH
SPLSH
AH ?!
MICHAEL ...!!
SPLSH
SPLRSH
EEK!!
NYOWR!
-BLRB-
HOLD ON, MICHAEL!
I'LL SAVE YOU!!
FROW!
YOWR!
SPLSH
SPLSH


NOOO!
SPSH
DON'T GIVE UP!!
:blupp:
FWAH!
SPLORSH

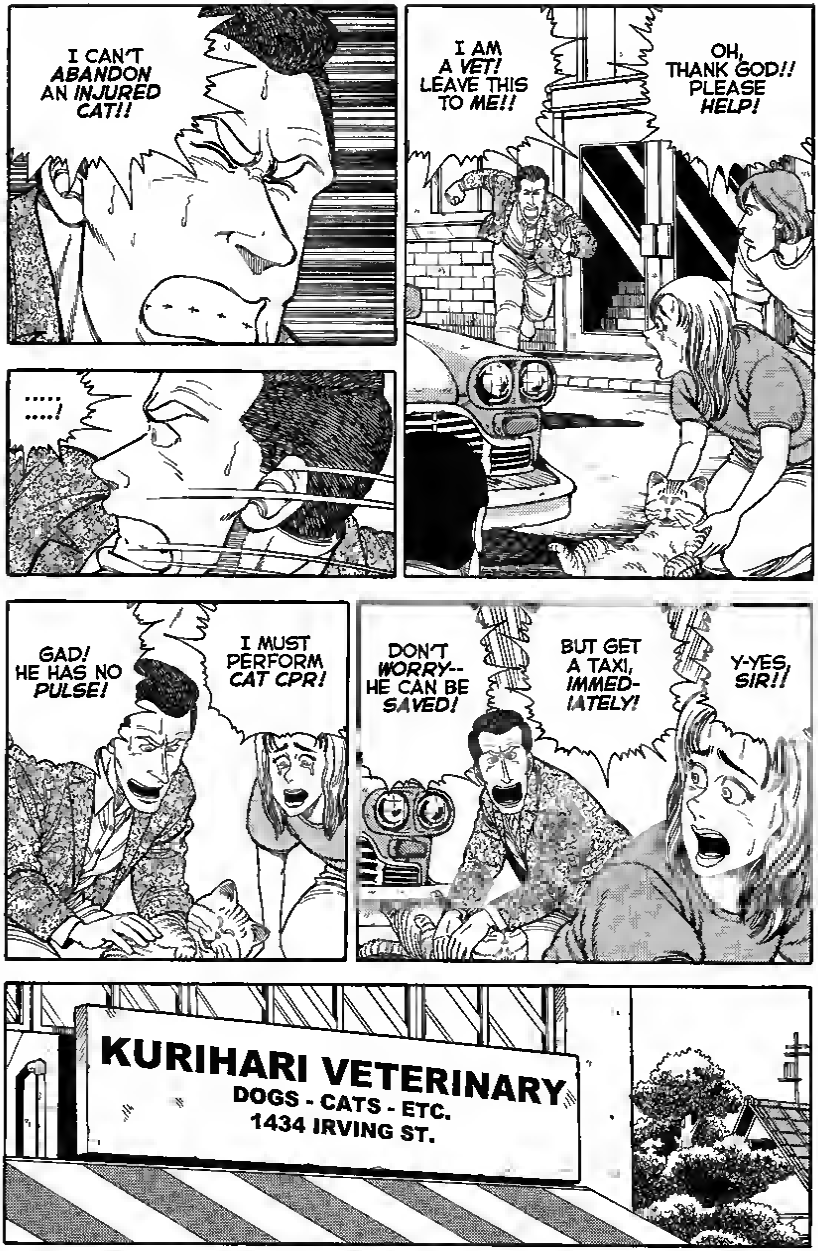



BLOOSH
IF YOU CAN SWIM, WHY DIDN'T YOU SWIM FROM THE START?!
DUMB CAT!!
THE END


THE FUGITIVE III
RICHARD KIMBLY THE FUGITIVE!! (PROFESSION, VETERINARIAN.)
FALSELY ACCUSED OF A CRIME HE DID NOT COMMIT, WRONGLY SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR MURDERING HIS OWN BELOVED WIFE (AND CERTAIN OTHER NAUGHTY BEHAVIORS), HE ESCAPED BY THE SKIN OF HIS TEETH FROM A TRAIN WRECK EN ROUTE TO THE PENITENTIARY!
A PERPETUAL FUGITIVE FROM THE CEASELESS PURSUIT OF THE RELENTLESS LT. GERARDLY!
Sutro baths cosmetics
ENDLESSLY SEEKING THE BUCK-TOOTHED MAN, LAST SEEN FLEEING THE SCENE OF THE CRIME!
RICHARD KIMBLY! HIS LIFE AS AN INNOCENT FUGITIVE CONTINUES!

SAN FRANCISCO KARAOKE FEST!
HM ...?
AH ONLY DRUNK MYTHELF TH~~ICK
BECUTH A' YOU~UU, BAH-BY!
AH ...?
HEY! YOU!!
HAH ...?
IT'S YOU, BUCK-TOOTHED MAN!
I'VE FOUND YOU AT LAST!!
STOP!!
AW, RATSTH!

YOU WON'T ESCAPE ME THIS TIME!
HEY, MAN, YOU'RE THE STHUPID CRIMINAL!! WHY DON'T YOU RUN?!
PITH ME OFF!!
SAKS
SKREEECH!
EEEK!!
AH ?!
OH NO!
MY DARLING MICHAEL !!
GOOD LORD! A CAT HAS BEEN STRUCK DOWN BY THIS VEHICLE!
....
....
IF I CAN CATCH THAT MAN, MY NAME WILL BE CLEARED FOREVER!
AND YET ...


I CAN'T ABANDON AN INJURED CAT!!
I AM A VET! LEAVE THIS TO ME!!
OH, THANK GOD!! PLEASE HELP!
.....
.....!
GAD! HE HAS NO PULSE!
I MUST PERFORM CAT CPR!
DON'T WORRY-- HE CAN BE SAVED!
BUT GET A TAXI, IMMEDIATELY!
Y-YES, SIR!!
KURIHARI VETERINARY
DOGS - CATS - ETC.
1434 IRVING ST.

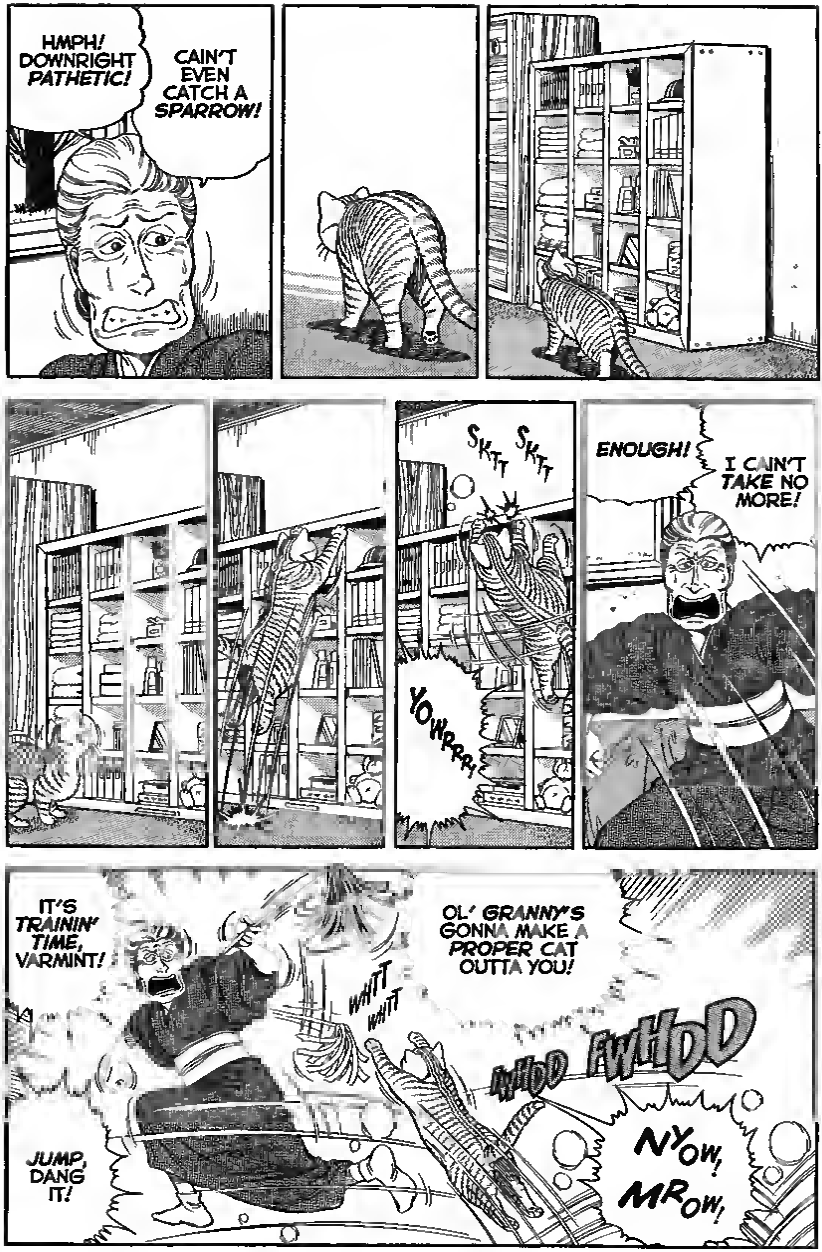
HE SHOULD BE ALL RIGHT.
THANKS TO YOUR PROMPT, SKILLFUL INTERVENTION, SIR!
THANK GOD! MY DEAR MICHAEL!
I MUST ASK... HAVE YOU EXPERIENCE IN THE VETERINARY SCIENCES?
ER... ....
N-NO. NONE.
AND NOW, I MUST GO...
WHAT ?!
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE YET!
CAN'T I AT LEAST BUY YOU DINNER?!
THANK YOU...
BUT MY TIME IS SHORT.
HM... ...

THESE MAGNETS ARE QUITE POWERFUL...
SNAP!!
....
....
.....
....?
HEH... CHECK IT OUT!! HEE HEE HEE!
WAA HA HA HA HA!!
SNOP!
RICHARD KIMBLY FUGITIVE!
WILL HIS DAY OF FREEDOM EVER COME ...?!
THE END

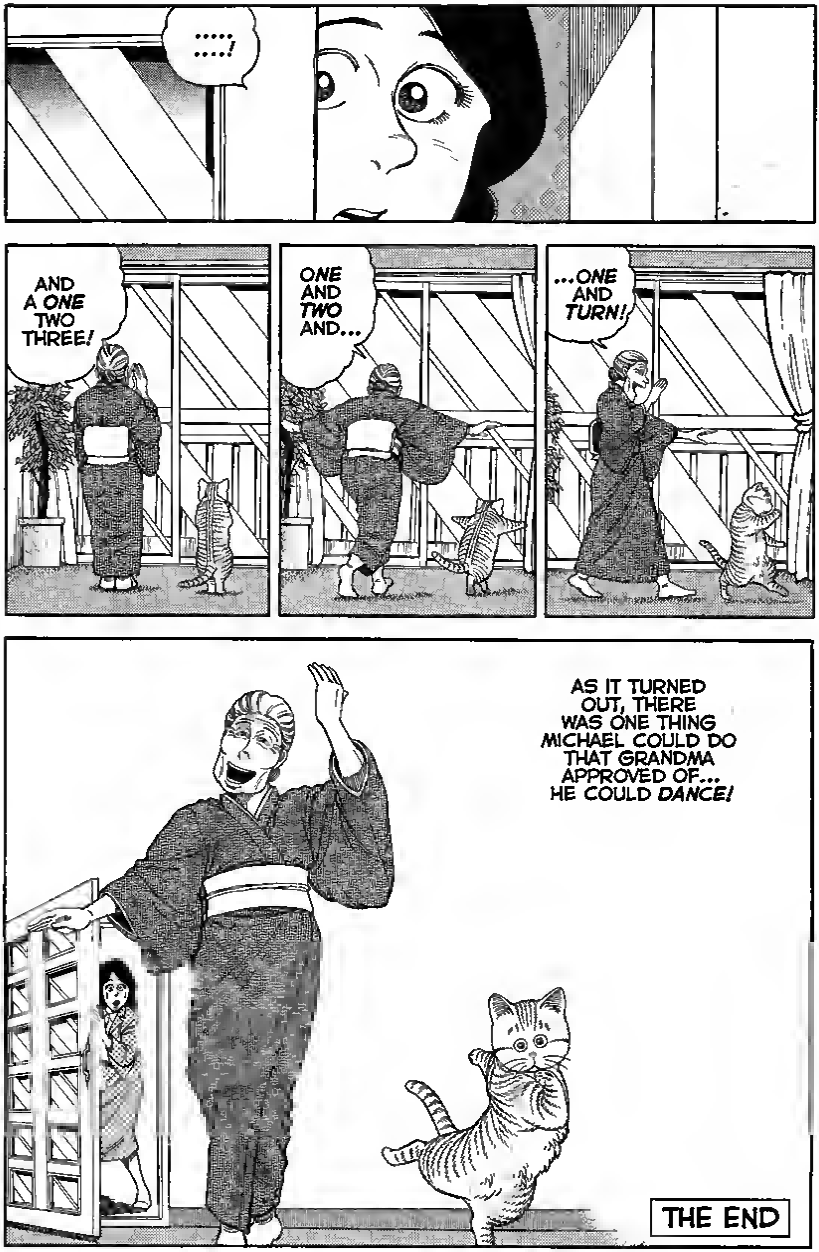
TODAY'S A SPECIAL DAY FOR KIMIKO— FOR THE FIRST TIME, HER GRANDMOTHER WAS VISITING FROM THE COUNTRY.
GRANDMA
JUST SET YOURSELF DOWN AND RELAX! I'LL MAKE SOME TEA.
THANKEE, HONEY. MY OLD BONES ARE ACHING!
HMN ...?
HMN ...?

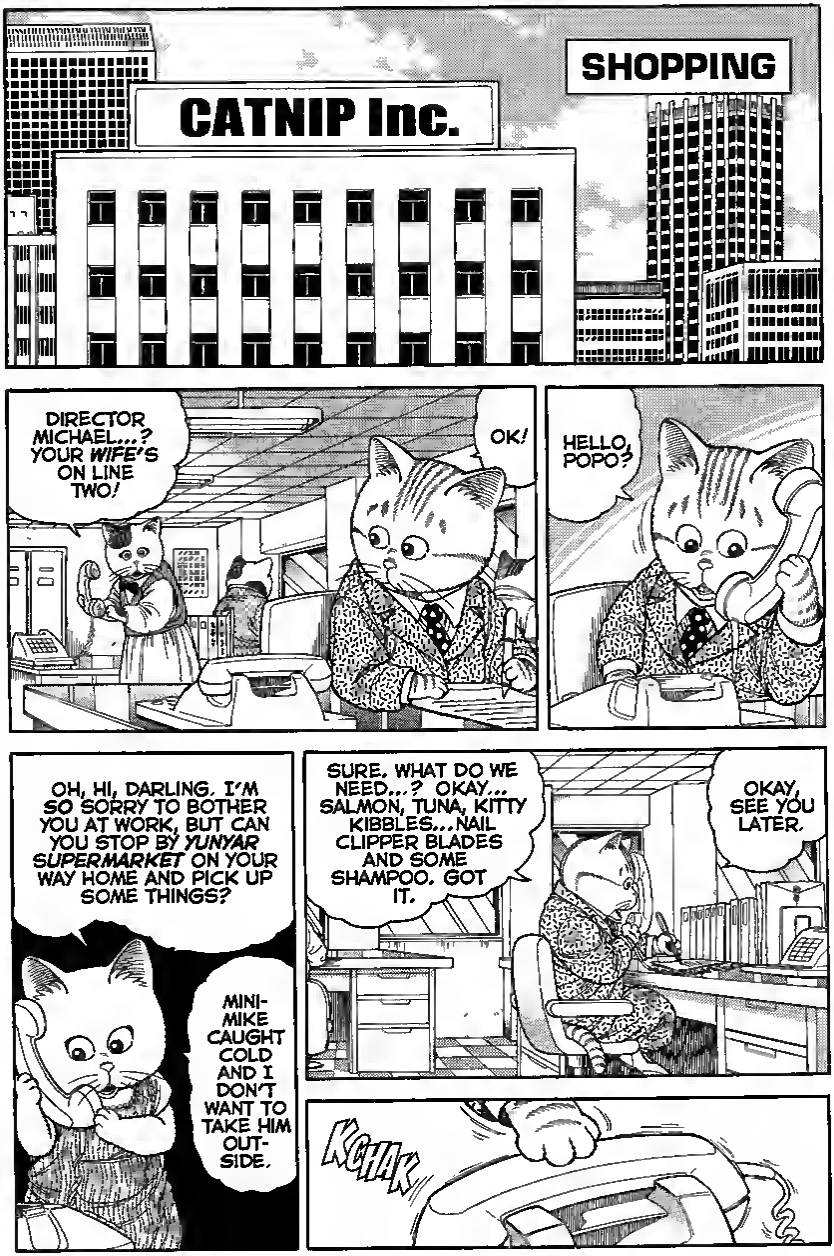
HIS NAME'S MICHAEL, GRANNY.
ISN'T HE CUTE?!
....
....
....
....
MEEYOWR?
....
....
LORD A' MERCY... I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S COME OVER CATS THESE DAYS.
.....!
NOW, WHEN I WAS A GIRL ON THE FARM, CATS STILL HAD DIGNITY!
....?
AWW, GRANNY, THAT'S NOT FAIR!

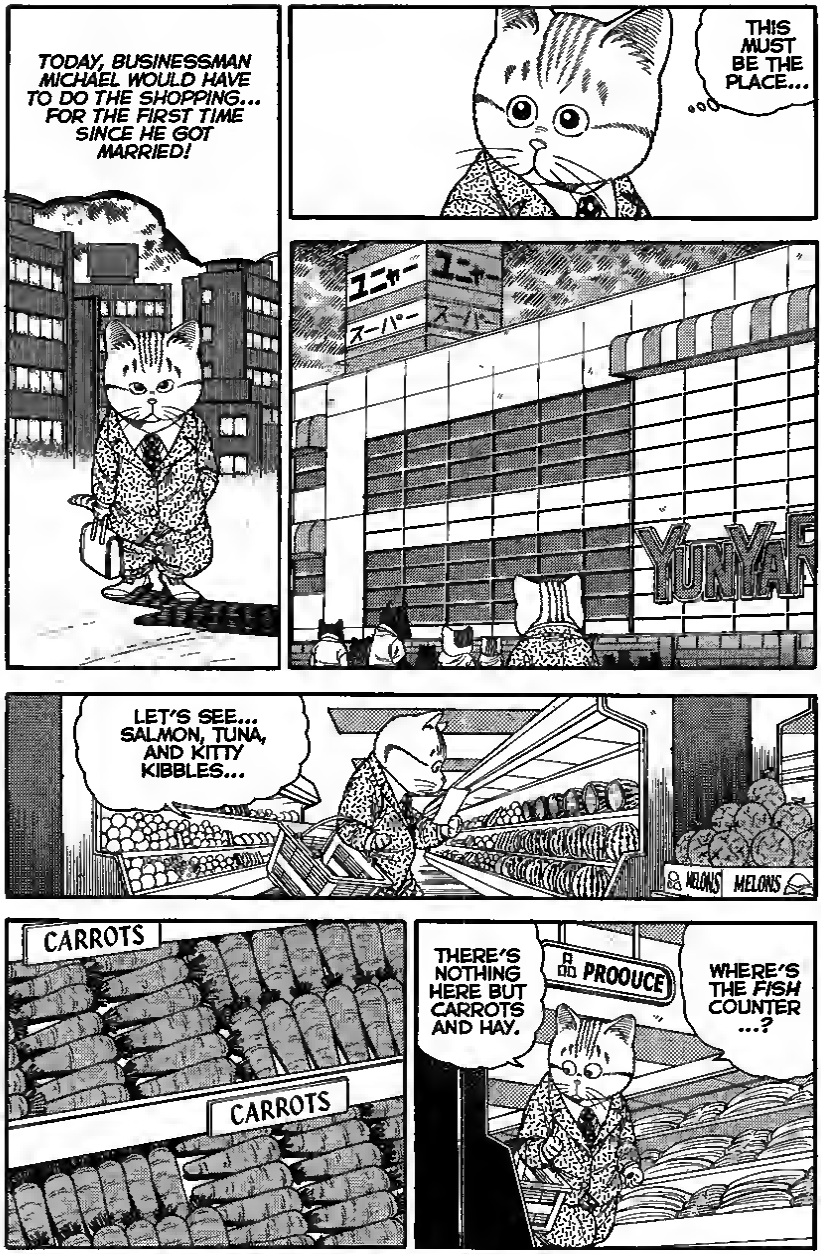
IT HAIN'T? THEN TELL ME--
--HOW MANY RATS DOES THIS HERE CRITTER CATCH IN A DAY?
HMPH!
AW, GRANNY! I'M SURE IF MICHAEL EVER HAD THE CHANCE, HE'D BE GREAT AT CATCHING RATS!
RATS...?! COME ON, GRANNY!
WE'RE IN A MODERN CONCRETE APARTMENT BUILDING. WE DON'T HAVE RATS!
I CAN'T ABIDE EXCUSES, YOUNG LADY!
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW I'M VERY PARTICULAR ABOUT CATS!!
HMN ...?
DAG NABBIT! MOVE YER TAIL, CAT!
GO CATCH THAT THERE BIRD!!
EEK! GRANDMA, NO! HE COULD FALL OFF THE BALCONY!


HMPH! DOWNRIGHT PATHETIC!
CAIN'T EVEN CATCH A SPARROW!
SKTT SKTT
YOWRR!
ENOUGH!
I CAIN'T TAKE NO MORE!
IT'S TRAININ' TIME, VARMINT!
OL' GRANNY'S GONNA MAKE A PROPER CAT OUTTA YOU!
WHIT WHIT
JUMP, DANG IT!
NYOW!
MROW!

NO, NO, NO!! THAT AIN'T THE WAY YUH DO IT!
COME ON! JUMP! AGAIN!!
WAIT WAIT
FWHDD
SIGH
OH, GRANNY...
BUT... AT LEAST NOW I CAN STEP OUT FOR AN AFTERNOON WITHOUT MICHAEL FEELING LONELY...!
HI! I'M HOME!
HMM ...?
FOLK SONGS ...?


.....
.....!
AND A ONE TWO THREE!
ONE AND TWO AND...
...ONE AND TURN!
AS IT TURNED OUT, THERE WAS ONE THING MICHAEL COULD DO THAT GRANDMA APPROVED OF... HE COULD DANCE!
THE END


SHOPPING
CATNIP Inc.
DIRECTOR MICHAEL...? YOUR *WIFE*'S ON LINE TWO!
OK!
HELLO, POPO?
OH, HI, DARLING. I'M SO SORRY TO BOTHER YOU AT WORK, BUT CAN YOU STOP BY *YUNYAR SUPERMARKET* ON YOUR WAY HOME AND PICK UP SOME THINGS?
MINI-MIKE CAUGHT COLD AND I DON'T WANT TO TAKE HIM OUT-SIDE.
SURE. WHAT DO WE NEED...? OKAY... SALMON, TUNA, KITTY KIBBLES... NAIL CLIPPER BLADES AND SOME SHAMPOO. GOT IT.
OKAY, SEE YOU LATER.
KCHAK

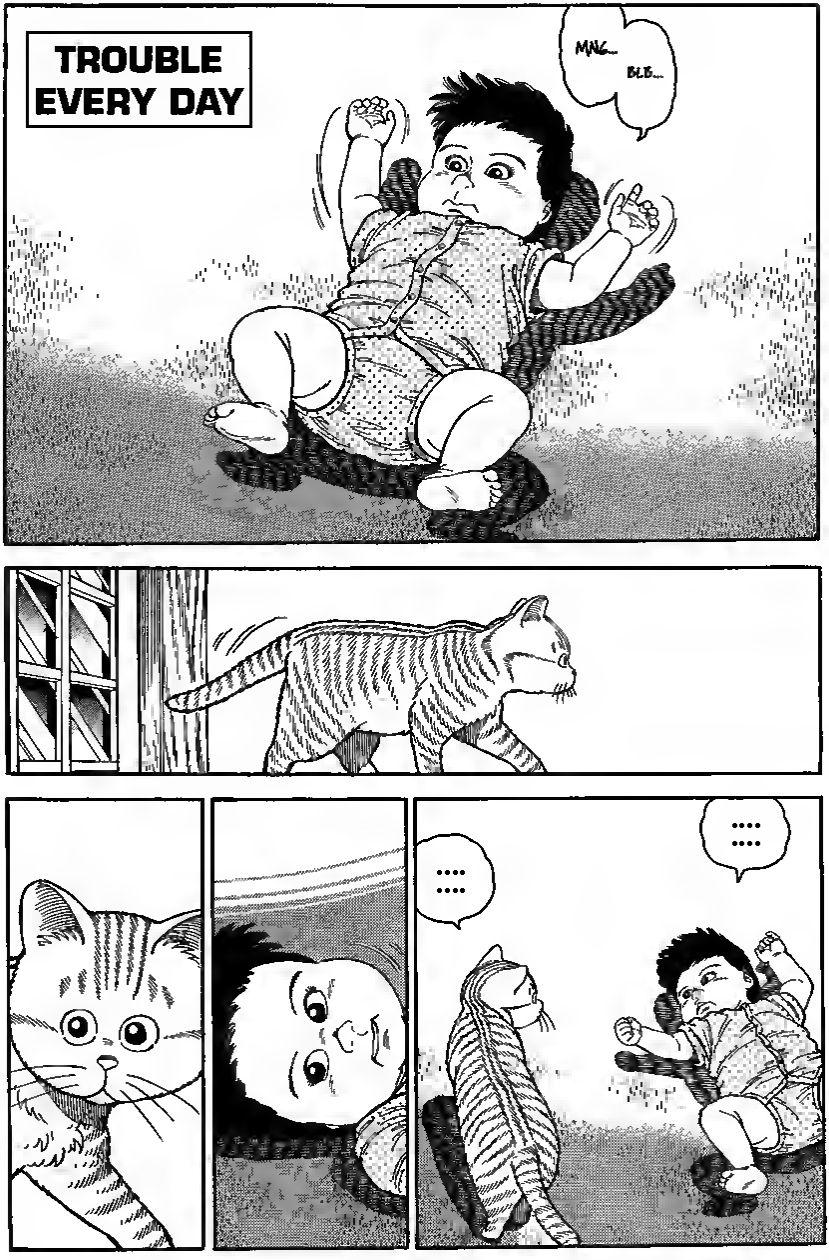

TODAY, BUSINESSMAN MICHAEL WOULD HAVE TO DO THE SHOPPING... FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HE GOT MARRIED!
THIS MUST BE THE PLACE...
ユニー スーパー
LET'S SEE... SALMON, TUNA, AND KITTY KIBBLES...
MELONS
CARROTS
CARROTS
THERE'S NOTHING HERE BUT CARROTS AND HAY.
PRODUCE
WHERE'S THE FISH COUNTER ...?

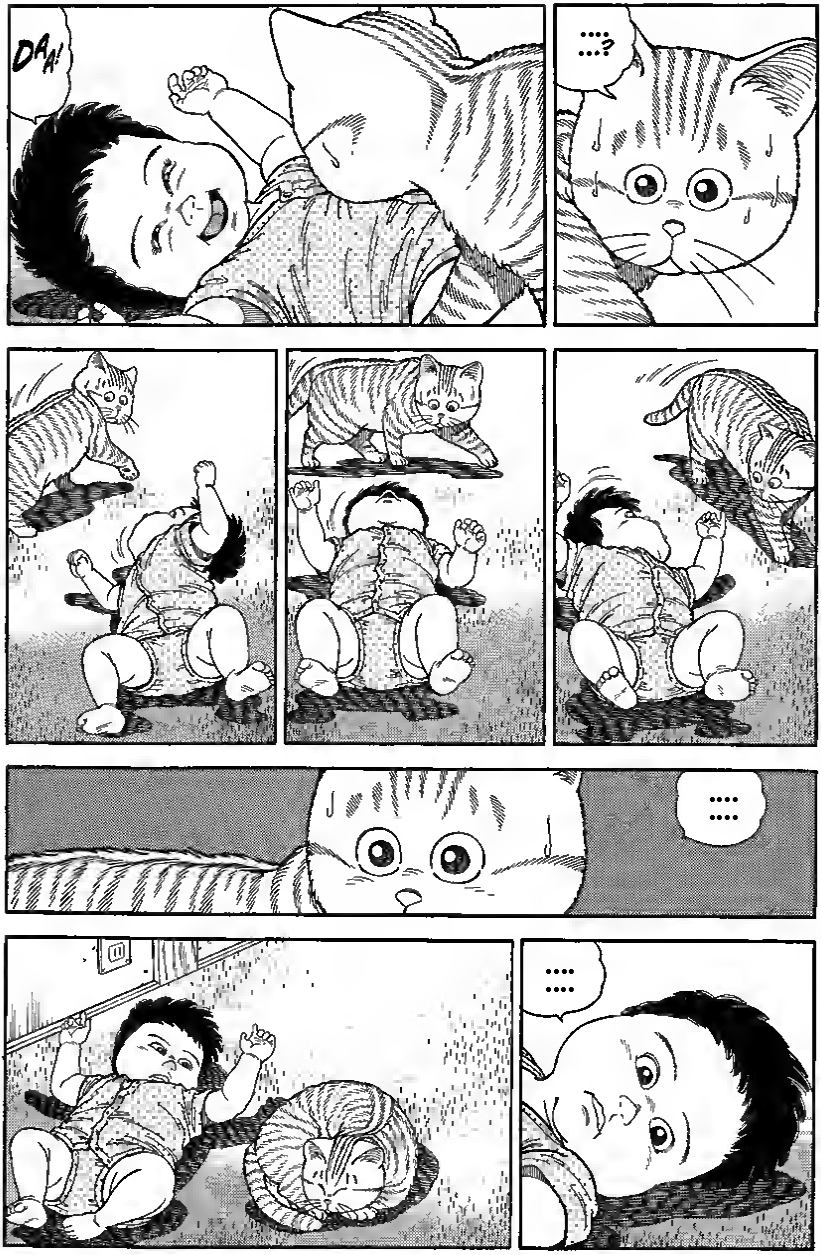
OH, WELL.
GUESS I'LL GET THE CLIPPERS AND SHAMPOO FIRST.
CLOTHIN
WOW... IT'S SHAM-POO, ALL RIGHT ...
BUT IT'S HUGE!
EXCUSE ME, BUT--
OH, THAT'S HORSE SHAMPOO, SIR!
THIS IS THE EQUESTRIAN DEPARTMENT. YOU WANT THE FELINE SECTION!
UH... OOPS... SORRY!
OKAY, THEN... MAYBE OVER HERE ...?
DON'T FORGET... SALMON, TUNA, KIBBLES...
NOW WHAT ?!
THE SIGN SAID FOOD, BUT IT'S ALL PAPER!
WE CAN'T EAT THIS STUFF!
PAPER
PAPER
GRASS

THIS IS THE UNGULATE FLOOR, DEARIE.
FELINE SUPPLIES ARE UPSTAIRS.
OOPS... SORRY!
KAT KORNER
CANNED FOOD SALE
CHICKEN
FISH
CATNIP
KIBBLES
FINALLY! THIS IS THE PLACE!
WILL YOU BE NEEDING A HAND OUT, SIR?
NO, THANKS.
CASHIER
CHINGG
TODAY WE'RE HAVING A SPECIAL PROMOTION, SIR.
YOU CAN EXCHANGE YOUR RECEIPT FOR A CHANCE AT OUR SPECIAL DRAWING. FIRST PRIZE IS A TRIP TO EUROPE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!
REALLY ...?

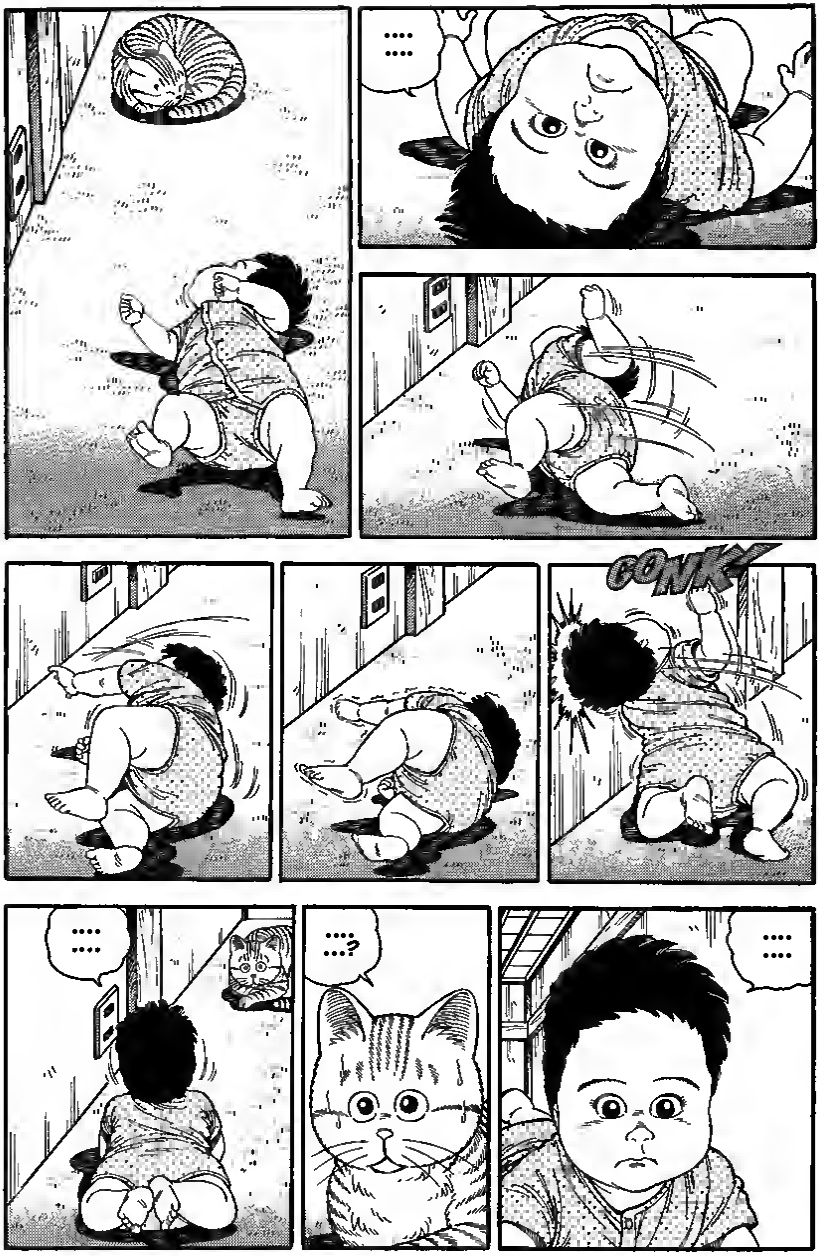
AH, HERE IT IS.
NEXT, PLEASE!
25 YEARS IN BUSINESS!
FIRST PRIZE: ALL EXPENSES PAID EUROPEAN VACATION
SECOND PRIZES: 40" TV 30W STEREO
CONGRATULATIONS, SIR! YOU WON A CONSOLATION PRIZE! ONE STICK OF BEEF-FLAVORED CHEWING GUM!
YEE-HAW!!
ktak
IT'S MAH LUCKY DAY!
.....
.....
SHAKKA SHAKKA
ktak

EEK!! WE HAVE OUR FIRST PRIZE WINNER!! SIR, YOU'RE GOING TO EUROPE!
.....
...?!
WHA...
NO WAY?!
YAHOO ...!!
....AND THAT'S WHAT HE'S DREAMING ABOUT, I BET!
I'LL BET HE'S NOT!
THE END

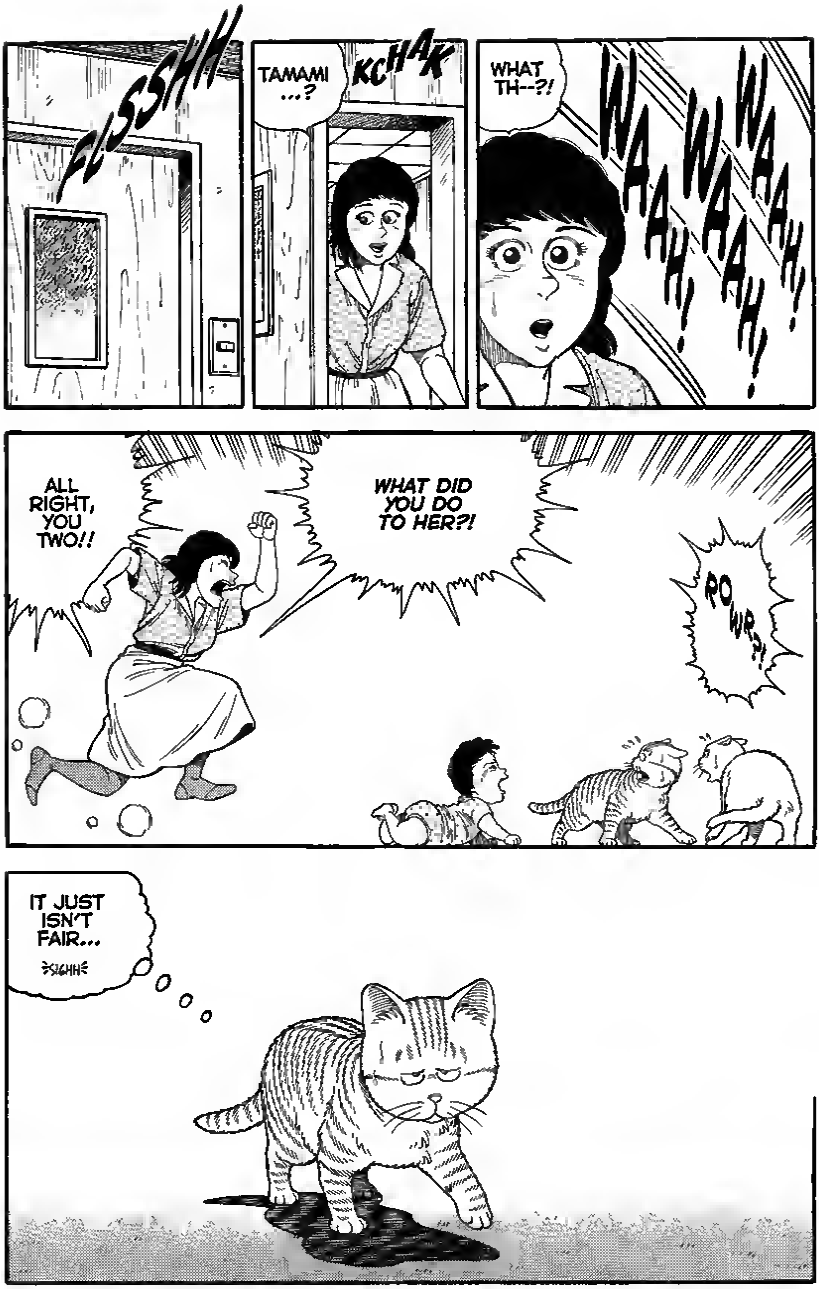

TROUBLE EVERY DAY
MNG...
BLB...
....
....
....
....


DAA!
.....?
.....
.....
.....

GAA! GAA!
GAA! GAA!
NYOWW!!
YANK
MROW!
PTT!
MNG! MNG!
YOWR!


....
....
CONK!
....
....
....?

NNNG
WAAH!
WAAH!!!
...!
DARLING! WHAT DID YOU DO TO IT?!
WAAH!
WAAH!
N-NOTHING, I SWEAR!! WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!
WHERE'S THE MAMA?!
I'M SORRY, DEAR, BUT SHE'S USING THE HUMAN BOX!
WHAT?!! THEY CAN TAKE FOREVER IN THERE!


FLSSHH
TAMAMI ...?
KCHAK
WHAT TH--?!
WAAH! WAAH! WAAH!
ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO!!
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HER?!
RO WR?!
IT JUST ISN'T FAIR...
SIGHH

THE END

THE MAIDEN'S PRAYER
PRROWR!
♥
WHAT'S UP, CATZILLA?!
YOU'RE AWFUL LOVEY-DOVEY THIS MORNING... DIDN'T MAMA GIVE YOU YOUR BREAKFAST?
PRRR.
PRRR.
GEE...
....
...?

!?!
WHAM
: : : !!
DADDY DADDY DADDY!
YOU GOTTA COME QUICK!!
WHAT NOW?
DON'T RUN IN THE HOUSE, DEAR!
IT... IT'S...
CATZILLA ...!!
SHE ...
SHE LEFT HALF HER FOOD!!
WHA ...?
GOOD GOD!!

Y-YOU'RE RIGHT! AND SHE NEVER LEAVES HER FOOD!
SHOULD WE CALL THE VET?!
MOMMA .... WAIT!
WHAT IF... WHAT IF... UM...
WHAT, HONEY ...?
WHAT IF...
...SHE'S IN LOVE?!
WHAT ...?!
THAT'S INSANE! ATE THE NEIGHBORS' KOI, MAYBE, BUT LOVE?!
DADDY! CATZILLA'S A GIRL, TOO!
MAYBE SHE'S PINING AFTER SOME CUTE TOMCAT!
AND SO SHE'S TOO, LIKE, HEART-BROKEN TO EAT!

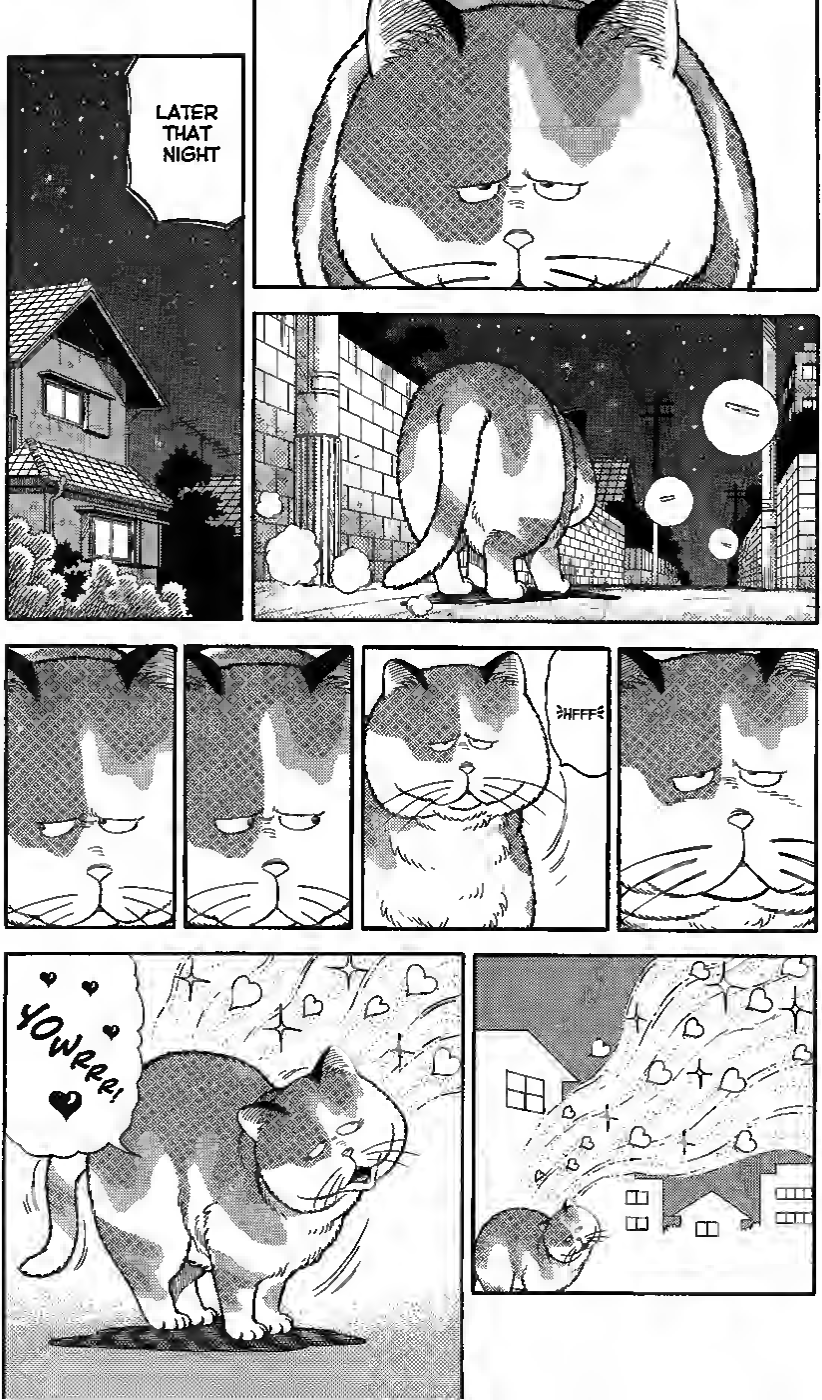
WELL, UH... MAYBE... BUT, IF THAT'S TRUE... WHOSE CAT DID SHE FALL FOR...?
FWHAM
WHDD
SHH! AND MAKE SURE SHE DOESN'T SEE US.
'KAY, DADDY!

....
...?
Y-YOU THINK ...
... THAT'S HER MAN?
FFHT!!
FWAK
GURK!
AAH!!
WELL... MAYBE NOT.
HEY ...?

OH MY GOD!! THAT'S THE HOUSE OF THE *CHAIRMAN* OF THE *KUSUNOKI CORPORATION!*
AND THAT'S HIS GRAND CHAMPION AMERICAN SHORTHAIR TABBY *DAISUKE!* I HEARD HE'S WORTH *EIGHTY THOUSAND DOLLARS!!*

GIVE IT *UP*, CATZILLA!
HE'S OUT OF YOUR *CLASS!*
HAVEN'T YOU EVER LOOKED IN THE *MIRROR*, YOU SILLY CAT?!
TO BE CONTINUED...!

THE MAIDEN'S PRAYER PART 2: A TRAGIC DESTINY
POOR CATZILLA! SHE'S TOTALLY WASTING AWAY.
SHE MUST JUST ADORE DAISUKE...!
STILL LOOKS FAT TO ME.
DADDY! CAN'T YOU ASK THEM TO LET CATZILLA MARRY DAISUKE?
DON'T TALK CRAZY, HONEY!
DAISUKE'S A WORLD GRAND CHAMPION!
AND EVEN IF THEY AGREED, THAT SNOOTY MRS. KUSUNOKI WOULD DEMAND THREE THOUSAND DOLLARS IN STUD FEES!
HEAR THAT? FORGET HIM, CATZILLA!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT NICE MICHAEL NEXT DOOR...?
DADDYYY! SHE HATES MICHAEL! HATES HIM!


LATER THAT NIGHT
HFFF
YOWRR!

WHOA ...?
ISN'T THAT ...?
YEAH, BABY!
QUEEN IN HEAT!!
FWHUMP
OUTTA MY WAY!!!
URK ...!

IT...IT'S CATZILLA...!
TRAPPED ...! LIKE RATS!
WH-WHAT SHOULD WE DO?!
IN THE FELINE UNIVERSE, THE FEMALE, NOT THE MALE, HAS THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE HER, ER, MARRIAGE PARTNER.
IN OTHER WORDS, HE'S GOT TO TAKE WHATEVER HE GETS. WE BIOLOGISTS HAVE A SCIENTIFIC TERM FOR THIS-- "THE TRAGIC FATE OF ALL MEN"...!
D-DAMN ...!
ALL RIGHT, BOYS! I'LL TAKE THE BULLET!
ER... MISS CATZILLA ...?
M-MARRY ME, MY DARLING!!
FFAK

PRROW!
DADDY DADDY DADDY! COME QUICK!!
WHAT NOW? CALM DOWN!
IT'S CAT-ZILLA !!
D-DADDY, SHE... SHE...
SHE JUST HAD KITTENS!
WHA --?!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE--

MEWW! MEWW!
MEWW! MEWW!
I THOUGHT SHE WAS GETTING A BIT CHUBBY... BUT IT WAS KITTENS!
SHE'S ALWAYS CHUBBY!
AND LOOK AT THESE PATTERNS!
TEE HEE!
MEW?
AH ...?!
GOOD FOR YOU, CATZILLA!
YOU MARRIED DAISUKE!
HOW COULD YOU GO OUT AND... AND MARRY THAT HIDEOUS CATZILLA?!
YOU COULD HAVE HAD ANY GIRL CAT YOU WANTED! OOH!
YES, "THE TRAGIC FATE OF ALL MEN." ONLY ANOTHER MAN WOULD UNDERSTAND.

THE END

Shirokuma *(White Bear), Male*

Here's a pic of one of the litter of seven born between Lady and Hogan. Technically, he's the model for "Mini-Mike." Maybe because he stayed living with his mom and dad and never left home, he continues to act like a baby even after he's all grown up. Ahh...it was such a moving moment when I saw those kittens were being born! Well, to tell the truth...Lady first tried to have the delivery right by my pillow while I was having a peaceful afternoon slumber. Let me tell you, it's no way to wake up, with a yowling cat next to your ear! Anyway, I carried her out to the box I had prepared for her and she immediately started to give birth, one kitten after another, complaining like mad all the way. Shirokuma, without a care for this noble sacrifice by his mother, continues to play like a kitten at the ripe old age of eleven.

— Makoto Kobayashi

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